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LETTER DATED 13 NOVEMBER 1979 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF SOUTH AFRICA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE
SECRETARY-GENERAL

At the request of the South African Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Honourable R. F. Botha, I am enclosing the text of a letter he addressed to Your Excellency on 13 November 1979.

I should appreciate it if this letter and its annexure could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) J. Adriaan WILSTEEN
Permanent Representative

Annex

Letter dated 13 November 1979 from the Minister of Foreign Affairs
of South Africa addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to refer to Your Excellency's letter dated 12 November 1979.

Your Excellency refers to your earlier letters of 7 and 8 November 1979, in which you set out the basis of your position on the matter of the presence during the current consultations in Geneva of the democratic parties of South West Africa/Namibia. Your Excellency adds that you assume that I will have informed them of your response.

Your Excellency's letter of 7 November on this issue reads:

"As to the question which you raised concerning representation at the consultations, it is my view that South Africa remains the interlocutor in regard to Namibia ...".

And later:

"I trust that Your Excellency will agree to send an appropriate delegation to Geneva."

In your letter of 8 November you wrote:

"As regards formal invitations to the Geneva consultations my view remains as expressed in my letter of 7 November. However, should members of the organizations to which you refer be in Geneva, my representatives would again be prepared to meet with them, as they did in New York in March."

In order to correct Your Excellency's misconception on the matter, I wish to assure you that the democratic parties would undoubtedly have summarily rejected your formula as an acceptable basis for participation. Indeed, they are reported by the press to have regarded the general gist of the formula as conveyed in press reports from New York to be a calculated slight.

However, I now note in Your Excellency's letter under reply that you indicated for the first time that your representatives in Geneva would be "happy to meet with the representatives" of the democratic parties of South West Africa/Namibia in their own right, and not as part of a South African delegation, as was formerly implied.

I have now learned that these parties have, in general, responded favourably to Your Excellency's invitation, conveyed to them through representatives of the Five Western countries which have been concerned with the negotiations. I understand that their reaction on the whole has been to accept Your Excellency's invitation for them to participate in the consultations in their own right, on the assumption that they will be accorded the same treatment as any other which has been invited.

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In the light of the decision by the democratic parties to participate, the South African Government has decided to send a delegation to Geneva on the basis that has been indicated to you. The delegation is leaving for Geneva today.

R. F. BOTHA
Minister of Foreign Affairs
