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Item 36 of the preliminary list*
QUESTION OF NAMIBIA

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-fourth year

Letter dated 6 April 1989 from the Permanent Representative
of Zimbabwe to the United Nations addressed to the
Secretary-General

I have the honour to forward the enclosed copy of a communiqué issued on 6 April 1989 by the Co-ordinating Bureau of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries with a request that it be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under item 36 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) I. S. G. MUDENGE
Ambassador/Permanent Representative of the
Republic of Zimbabwe to the United Nations
and Chairman of the Co-ordinating Bureau of
the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries

* A/44/50/Rev.1.

ANNEX

Communiqué issued on 6 April 1989 by the Co-ordinating Bureau
of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries

The Co-ordinating Bureau of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries held an urgent meeting in New York on 6 April 1989 to consider the grave situation in Namibia.

The Bureau expressed shock and dismay at the brutal and genocidal campaign of the illegal occupation régime of South Africa against the Namibian people at a time when the process of bringing genuine independence to Namibia was already under way. It was outraged to note that the murder squads of Battalion 101 and Koevoet were operating with the full authority of the Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General, Mr. Marti Ahtissari. The Bureau judged Mr. Ahtissari's action to be ill-conceived and a violation of Security Council resolution 435 (1978). It is a betrayal of the sacred trust that the United Nations has for the Namibian people and brings shame on all of us as Members of the United Nations.

The Bureau was scandalized to learn that the United Nations Transition Assistance Group was wholly unprepared to assume its responsibilities by 1 April 1989, the designated date for the commencement of the implementation of Security Council resolution 435 (1978). It was an act of irresponsibility and naivety to proceed with the 1 April date when logistically the date could not be met.

The Bureau reaffirmed that the SWAPO combatants, who, as is well-known, have always been operating on the ground inside Namibia since the beginning of their liberation struggle, have a legitimate right to remain in their country and to be assigned to bases of confinement in accordance with the Secretary-General's report (S/13120) of 26 February 1979, which stipulates that: "Any SWAPO armed forces in Namibia at the time of the cease-fire will likewise be restricted to base at designated locations inside Namibia".

The Bureau denounced and rejected the unfounded and deliberately contrived basis proffered by the illegal occupation régime of South Africa for leaving their bases to attack SWAPO combatants in northern Namibia.

The Bureau called upon the Secretary-General of the United Nations to confine the South African forces to their bases without delay in compliance with Security Council resolution 435 (1978) and to effect the immediate full deployment of the 7,500 military component of UNTAG in Namibia as provided by resolution 435 (1978) in order to ensure free and fair elections without intimidation. Furthermore the Bureau expressed concern at the poor judgement shown by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General in his handling of the present crisis in Namibia and called on the Secretary-General to ensure that the same does not happen in future.

The Co-ordinating Bureau requested the Non-Aligned Group of 17 on Namibia to continue monitoring the implementation of Security Council resolution 435 (1978) and to establish a mechanism for receiving information from the United Nations Secretariat on a regular basis and to report to the Bureau.