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Letter dated 31 August 1976 from the Permanent Representative of the
Federal Republic of Germany to the United Nations addressed to the
Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you a statement of the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany on the Declaration of the Windhoek Constitutional Conference dated 18 August 1976.

I should be grateful if you could have this statement issued as an official document of the General Assembly under item 85 of the provisional agenda.

(Signed) Baron Rüdiger von WECHMAR
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the
Federal Republic of Germany
to the United Nations

* A/31/150.

ANNEX

Statement issued on 25 August 1976 by the Government of the
Federal Republic of Germany on the Declaration of the
Windhoek Constitutional Conference

The Federal Government has taken note of the fact that, on 18 August 1976, the Windhoek Constitutional Conference announced for the first time a date for Namibia's independence and declared that Namibia's territorial unity is to be maintained. The Federal Government takes this as a sign of progress, yet it regards the date of 31 December 1978 as too remote.

At the same time, it regrets that the Declaration of 18 August does not provide for either free elections under United Nations supervision or any participation of the existing political forces, including the South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO). The Federal Government, in conformity with its partners in the European Community and the majority of United Nations Members, continues to regard the fulfilment of these requirements as imperative for Namibia's peaceful transition to independence.

It is already obvious from the first critical reactions of the United Nations and of African States that it will not be possible to reduce the tensions in the area or to achieve any genuine progress unless these essential questions are settled. The Federal Government will therefore continue its efforts towards this goal on a bilateral and multilateral basis in order to assist in solving the conflict.
