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LETTER DATED 15 AUGUST 1989 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE  
OF SOUTH AFRICA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE  
SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to enclose for your information a copy of a statement made by the Administrator-General of Namibia, Advocate Louis Pienaar, this afternoon in Windhoek.

I should be grateful if it could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Jeremy B. SHEARAR  
Permanent Representative

Annex

Statement issued by the Administrator-General of Namibia on  
15 August 1989

I have said on a number of occasions that, as and when the situation in the northern areas returns to normal and the potential threat posed by the presence of elements of the People's Liberation Army of Namibia (PLAN) north of the border recedes, I shall be in a position to consider the reduction of South West Africa Police (SWAPOL) forces in the area. Towards the end of last week, Mr. Ahtisaari assured me that:

(a) The greater majority of PLAN elements had returned to Namibia as civilians;

(b) PLAN's command structure had been dismantled in the sense that some of its commanders had returned to Namibia also as civilians;

(c) Its weapons had been stored and greased and were kept under lock and key by Angola.

The Angolan Government had also previously assured us that there were virtually no armed PLAN elements south of the 16th parallel.

Last Friday the Secretary-General of the United Nations, in a discussion with the South African Ambassador in New York, reaffirmed the assurances given to me by his Special Representative. He added that in his and Mr. Ahtisaari's view, PLAN no longer had the capability of posing a threat.

I accept the assurances given by the Secretary-General and his Special Representative and by the Government of Angola. Acting on these assurances and in accordance with earlier undertakings by me I am prepared to remove from duty in the northern regions a total of 1,200 members of SWAPOL. This number represents the remnants of the counter-insurgency component reintegrated in SWAPOL following the incursions of the South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO) on 1 April. They will be confined to bases where they will undergo reorientation and retraining to equip them for roles which are to be redefined in the light of changed circumstances. This decision, which affects a substantial percentage of police deployed in the north, will enable me also to restructure the command system in that area in the coming weeks. I have no objection if the Special Representative should wish to monitor their confinement to base.

This step, which obviously reduces the capability of SWAPOL to respond to an untoward eventuality in the area, has been taken on the basis of the solemn assurances given to me by the Secretary-General, the Special Representative and the Government of Angola. It is a further demonstration of the total commitment of South Africa and of my Administration to the successful implementation of Security Council resolution 435 (1978). We have a right to expect the same commitment from the other parties involved in implementing the settlement plan and equally strict

observance of its provisions. I trust that the Secretary-General and the Special Representative will support me in this respect.

The Special Representative himself has clearly defined responsibilities to assist in preventing intimidation in the run-up to the elections. The reduction of the police force places extra responsibilities on my Administration and on the police component of the United Nations Transition Assistance Group (UNTAG), and I expect the Special Representative's full co-operation and support in ensuring that we can jointly maintain a state of affairs throughout Namibia which is conducive to free and fair elections.

It stands to reason that, if the situation should in any way deteriorate in Ovamboland or elsewhere, I shall be obliged in terms of my responsibilities under the settlement plan to consider urgently in the framework of the settlement plan the steps that would need to be taken in order to restore law and order.

May I use this opportunity to appeal also to all political and community leaders to use their persuasive powers and authority to impress upon their followers and supporters, the need to eliminate the scourge of intimidation in all its forms from the political process and to join forces in guaranteeing free and fair elections in November. I would hope that they would use each and every occasion to broadcast this message.

