



General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/44/521
13 September 1989

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Forty-fourth session
Item 36 of the provisional agenda*

QUESTION OF NAMIBIA

Letter dated 23 May 1989 from the Secretary-General to
the President of Zimbabwe and Chairman of the Movement
of Non-Aligned Countries

I have read with great care the Political Declaration adopted by the Ministerial Meeting of the Co-ordinating Bureau of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries following its meeting in Harare between 17 and 19 May 1989. I was interested to see that on many of the international problems discussed, the meeting shared an identity of views with the United Nations, and was very supportive of the efforts being made by the United Nations in resolving them.

As you are aware, I have always welcomed the close support and co-operation of the Non-Aligned Movement in resolving global issues and in maintaining and strengthening international peace and security. This relationship has been helped through frank and regular exchanges of views whenever the occasion required them.

Unfortunately, I am obliged to say that paragraph 67 of the Political Declaration constitutes a departure from this relationship: its content and wording cast unfair aspersions on the integrity of UNTAG, which has been established under the authority of the United Nations Security Council.

I feel it is necessary to recall, Mr. President, that it was the prolonged disagreement among Member States over the size of the military component of UNTAG that led to the unfortunate delay in the intergovernmental decisions necessary for the timely establishment and deployment of the Force.

Moreover, had the cease-fire arrangements and related undertakings been scrupulously observed, as required by the United Nations plan, the tragic events

* A/44/150.

that occurred in April could well have been avoided. In this connection, Mr. President, I must also reiterate that UNTAG does not have powers of enforcement. To be successful, the Force has to rely on the full co-operation of all parties who must fulfil their obligations to adhere strictly to the agreements and understandings to which they have committed themselves. Paragraph 67 of the Political Declaration ignores these key facts and I would be remiss in my duties as Secretary-General of the United Nations if I remained silent on this matter.

Mr. President, I am sure that you share with me the keen desire that the efforts of the international community should now be concentrated on facilitating the speedy and meticulous implementation of Security Council resolution 435 (1978). For my part, I shall do all that I can to bring to a successful conclusion the historic mission in which the United Nations is engaged in Namibia. I am confident that I can count on your personal support and co-operation, as well as that of the Non-Aligned Movement, in this undertaking. I should, in this connection, be most grateful if the contents of this letter could be brought to the attention of the members of the Movement.

(Signed) Javier PEREZ DE CUELLAR
