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LETTER DATED 10 OCTOBER 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 the text of the statement issued today by the Administrator-General of Namibia, Advocate Louis Pienaar, concerning Your Excellency's report to the Security Council on the implementation of Security Council resolution 640 (1989), issued on 6 October 1989 (S/20883).

I should be grateful if, with reference to document S/20883, the statement could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Jeremy B. SHEARAR
Permanent Representative

Annex

Statement issued on 10 October 1989 by the
Administrator-General of Namibia

I have taken note of the Secretary-General's report to the Security Council on the implementation of Security Council resolution 640 (1989), issued on 6 October 1989.

I am particularly heartened by his observation that "all the parties involved have increasingly complied with the requirements of the settlement plan and have given me reason to believe that they will continue to do so".

I share the Secretary-General's confidence that the Election Proclamation AG 49, which has been finally signed by myself, "conforms both with the provisions of the settlement plan and with internationally accepted norms for the conduct of free and fair elections ...".

The Secretary-General addresses, inter alia, "paramilitary and ethnic forces and commando units", and the role of SWAPOL.

With regard to the paramilitary and ethnic forces and commando units I am satisfied that the present agreed presence of administrative personnel is in compliance with the agreements reached.

Some of the references made to the role of SWAPOL cannot remain unchallenged.

The assertion by the Secretary-General that UNTAG police (CIVPOL) have "encountered a certain lack of co-operation from SWAPOL in some crucial areas of its operations" is biased inasmuch as it creates the impression that only SWA police is at fault. Truth of the matter is that communications between the SWA police and CIVPOL have occasionally been inadequate. This has caused misunderstandings on both sides and is now construed as unwillingness to co-operate, which is not correct.

The Secretary-General asserts that "it has not yet, for instance, been possible to reach agreement on the right of CIVPOL to visit detainees in the custody of SWAPOL at SWAPOL stations". This is totally unfounded. As early as May of this year the SWA police laid down the procedures for such visits and, subsequently, on two occasions, sought comment from the CIVPOL Commissioner regarding the matter. No response has hitherto been forthcoming.

I reserve the right to respond to other points raised by the Secretary-General in respect of the role of the SWA police, and more particularly the counter-insurgency unit. However, since the final demobilization of the 1,200 members of this unit and its command structure, formerly confined to base, is now being completed in compliance with Security Council resolution 640 (1989), it may not now serve a useful purpose.

I must, nevertheless, seriously question the Secretary-General's insistence on the demobilization of "remaining ex-Koevoet personnel who are still serving with SWAPOL elsewhere than in the Oshakati district".

Already my police resources are stretched beyond their limits and any further insistence that other members of the police force be demobilized could leave me with no option but to request assistance from elsewhere.

With the election less than four weeks away it will not be possible to train new police recruits.

I am confident that the existing force as presently deployed will be able to exercise the necessary control and maintain law and order, provided the co-operation of all parties concerned can be obtained to contain intimidation and relied upon for the remainder of the election period.

The Secretary-General's report augurs well for the final stage of the implementation process. I perceive a spirit of recognition and good-will and can assure Mr. de Cuellar and his Special Representative of my Administration's dedication to the successful implementation of a free and fair election.

