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LETTER DATED 12 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 the United Nations Mission on Detainees.

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

(Signed) Jeremy B. SHEARAR
Permanent Representative

Annex

Statement dated 12 October 1989 issued by the Administrator-General
of Namibia concerning the United Nations Mission on Detainees

I am profoundly concerned that the findings of the Mission are inconclusive.

We are confronted with a humanitarian issue of wide emotional and moral dimensions. No one should attempt to excuse or gloss over what has happened. The Special Representative claims sole responsibility for settling the issue. However, we all have a responsibility to ensure that every one of the missing detainees is accounted for. All Namibians, whatever their political affiliations and all Governments, governmental and non-governmental agencies, in fact the whole international community, share this moral obligation. I appeal to them all to involve themselves directly in this matter. We all have an obligation, not only towards the missing persons, but also towards their families, and those in Namibia who are the victims of daily pain and suffering, and whose expectations and hopes remain unfulfilled.

Perhaps if the Special Representative had addressed the issue, which had been raised time and time again with many Governments and organizations, in good time and not at such a late hour, the Mission would not have found itself faced with so many constraints. The Mission was at least three months late.

The Special Representative gives the assurance that "the search is not over". I urge that the search should continue with vigour and urgency, and that the Mission should resume its efforts forthwith. It is, however, a prerequisite for a more successful conclusion and the removal of all harmful perceptions that the Mission this time enlist the active assistance of relatives and all who can contribute towards a resolution of the problem which will satisfy not only the Special Representative and the international community, but especially the families and people of Namibia generally.

