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LETTER DATED 13 NOVEMBER 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 by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. F. F. Botha, at the conclusion of the elections in Namibia, dated 12 November 1989.

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 November by the Minister of Foreign Affairs
of South Africa at the conclusion of the elections in Namibia

The most important phase of the independence process of Namibia has come to a successful conclusion. As far as I am concerned it ends the international dispute that has raged for more than 40 years since the founding of the United Nations, and which aside from apartheid, constituted the most important line of attack against South Africa.

I am grateful that the elections proceeded as they did, so that Mr. Ahtisaari could declare that the electoral process fulfilled the requirements of resolution 435.

I would like to express my personal gratitude to Mr. Ahtisaari and his staff for their co-operation which enabled the election to proceed as smoothly as was humanly possible. Mr. Ahtisaari and I have been working towards the execution of a peace plan for Namibia for more than 11 years. I have come to know him as a man of integrity and Namibia can be thankful that such a person could play umpire during the difficult final phase of the electoral process.

Three important phases remain: the counting of the votes, which will hopefully be completed by next Wednesday; the composition of the 72 member constituent assembly who will write the constitution for an independent Namibia; then independence for the territory. The South African Government trusts that these three phases will be concluded peacefully, and wishes success to all the parties who will work on the new constitution.

The South African Government stands ready to recognize the results as certified by Mr. Ahtisaari, and is ready to work constructively with the future government of Namibia.

Southern Africa is entering a new phase where the emphasis will be on economic co-operation, and where ideological differences will be pushed to the background.

Namibia's independence is of great historic importance for the whole of Africa; it is the last country of the colonial era to gain independence. I am thankful that the election in this particular country, with its many contrasts and turbulent history, took place peacefully.

