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LETTER DATED 22 APRIL 1985 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE
UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND TO THE UNITED
NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to enclose herewith the text of a statement handed to the South African Government on 15 April 1985 concerning the latest developments in Namibia.

After the South African State President's response to the proposals put to him on 25 March by the Multi-Party Conference (MPC), the Foreign and Commonwealth Office spokesman made the following statement in London on 19 April:

"Having seen the State President's response we wish to confirm that what we said in this statement [of 15 April] remains valid. We note however that the South African Government have stressed that they will continue to negotiate with the United Nations and the international community on achieving internationally recognised independence for South West Africa."

I should be grateful if you would have this letter, and its enclosure, circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) J. A. THOMSON

Annex

Text of the statement handed to the South African Government on
15 April 1985

The British Government note with concern the Government of South Africa's consideration of the proposal of some of the Namibian internal parties for a transitional government.

The British Government would regard any unilateral measures taken by the South African Government in relation to the establishment of constitutional bodies and to the transfer of power in Namibia to be null and void. No arrangements that may be established as a result of such measures would have any status whatsoever under the United Nations settlement plan. Nor can the South African Government's responsibility to bring about the implementation of the United Nations plan be delegated to any Namibian party.

The only agreed basis for internationally recognised independence for Namibia is United Nations Security Council resolution 435 (1978), to which the British Government is formally committed. Under resolution 435 (1978) the constitution for an independent Namibia is to be drafted by representatives of the Namibian people chosen in a free and fair election. The British Government consider that any document which purports to be a constitution for an independent Namibia, but which was drafted under procedures other than those provided for in resolution 435 (1978), would be without effect.

