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QUESTION OF NAMIBIA

Letter dated 6 May 1985 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the  
Permanent Mission of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United  
Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to inform you of the position of the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic on the latest action taken by the apartheid régime in South Africa.

Recently, the racist régime in South Africa, in defiance of the resolutions of the Security Council and the General Assembly and international public opinion, proceeded with its wicked scheme aimed at setting up another puppet régime in Namibia, which it is illegally occupying. It adopted a unilateral decision to establish the so-called interim government in Namibia, disregarding the existence of the sole and authentic representative of the people of Namibia, namely, the South West Africa People's Organization, which is recognized by the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity, and reserving for itself authority over questions of internal security, armed forces and foreign policy, in order to ensure the conversion of Namibia by this means into a new "bantustan". This manoeuvre cannot be regarded separately from the brutal repression of the Namibian people - that repression which has served to increase the isolation of the racist régime. This manoeuvre carried out by the racist régime in South Africa with a view to setting up a so-called internal administration in Namibia constitutes clear defiance of the United Nations and, in particular, of the Security Council, which declared in its resolution 439 (1978) that any unilateral measures taken by the illegal occupation régime are null and void.

This illegal action has aroused world-wide indignation, because, since the General Assembly terminated South Africa's mandate for Namibia some two decades ago, the Pretoria régime has been assiduous in asserting its will to impose an

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internal settlement in Namibia, in total disregard of the demands of the Namibian people for their right to self-determination and genuine independence and of the will of the international community.

The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic strongly condemns and rejects this action that has been taken by the apartheid régime in South Africa and calls upon the international community to condemn it and to refrain from according any recognition to this action, which was contrived by this régime in order to perpetuate its illegal occupation and to obstruct the implementation of the United Nations plan for the independence of Namibia set forth in Security Council resolutions 385 (1976) and 435 (1978). It supports the statements of the Secretary-General of the United Nations declaring this manoeuvre null and void and reaffirms its support for Security Council resolution 435 (1978), as being the sole legal basis for the resolution of the conflict, and its strong support for the struggle of the people of Namibia, under the leadership of SWAPO, their sole and authentic representative.

I request you to have this letter circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under item 34 of the preliminary list for the fortieth session.

(Signed) Abdul Mou'men AL-ATASSI  
Chargé d'affaires a.i.  
Minister Plenipotentiary

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