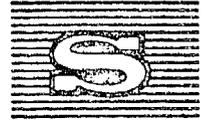


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LETTER DATED 1 JANUARY 1979 FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ADDRESSED
TO THE MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF SOUTH AFRICA

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter of 22 December 1978 (S/12983), in which you conveyed your Government's acceptance of Security Council resolution 435 (1978), relating to the transition of Namibia to independence, by communicating South Africa's decision to co-operate in the expeditious implementation of this resolution.

I believe that "a comprehensive cessation of all hostile acts", as provided for in paragraph 8 of the proposal for a settlement of the Namibian situation (S/12636), is an essential prerequisite to the implementation of resolution 435 (1978). The parties have separately informed me of their willingness to undertake a comprehensive cease-fire and scrupulously to observe its terms in accordance with the proposal. I shall, at the appropriate time, as previously indicated by me in documents S/12869 and S/12938, propose a procedure for the commencement of the cease-fire. Thereafter, the various steps indicated in the proposal for a settlement, as approved in resolution 435 (1978), would take place.

As regards the date for United Nations-supervised elections in Namibia, I agree that a date should be set as soon as possible through consultations between my Special Representative and the Administrator-General. The date of not later than 30 September 1979 is consistent with the proposal. From this it follows, also in accordance with the proposal, that the emplacement of UNTAG in Namibia must commence before the end of February. It also follows that all the prior steps envisaged must be completed in accordance with the proposal for a settlement.

I am therefore giving instructions for the necessary consultations regarding the composition of the military component of UNTAG with the parties concerned, with potential contributing Governments and with the Security Council to take place at United Nations Headquarters.

The relationship between my Special Representative and the Administrator-General has been determined in the settlement proposal, as have their relative powers and responsibilities. It will be of the greatest importance for my Special Representative and the Administrator-General to work harmoniously in the implementation of the proposal. In this connexion, I would stress that the settlement proposal has to be regarded in its totality, each of its sections having equal value. Certainly paragraph 12 of the settlement proposal is a very important

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element, and I have been assured by representatives of the States which border on Namibia that they will co-operate fully with the United Nations in ensuring that UNTAG is able to carry out its mandate.

On the basis of the understandings outlined above, it is my intention to request Mr. Ahtisaari to visit South Africa and Namibia in January to complete consultations on operational requirements for the deployment of UNTAG. I would propose that Mr. Ahtisaari plan to arrive in the area for this purpose during the week commencing 8 January 1979.

It is my sincere hope that the New Year will see a successful solution of the question of Namibia which would make a vital contribution to peace in southern Africa.

(Signed) Kurt WALDHEIM
