



Security Council

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LETTER DATED 26 NOVEMBER 1985 FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ADDRESSED
TO THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF SOUTH AFRICA

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter of 12 November 1985 (S/17627, annex) concerning South Africa's choice of the electoral system in terms of Security Council resolution 435 (1978).

As you are aware, in my report to the Security Council of 19 May 1983 (S/15776), I outlined the position regarding the choice of the electoral system as follows:

"As regards the electoral system to be employed in electing the Constituent Assembly, it was agreed that it would be based either on proportional representation or single-member constituencies. I was also assured that all the parties were agreed that this issue must be settled in accordance with the terms of Security Council resolution 435 (1978) and that the issue must not cause delay in the implementation of that resolution. The front-line States and SWAPO emphasized the view that agreement should be secured on the electoral system prior to implementation of Security Council resolution 435 (1978). ..."

Following recent consultations, I wish to confirm to Your Excellency that agreement has been reached on the system of proportional representation for the elections envisaged in Security Council resolution 435 (1978). In accordance with the settlement proposal (S/12636), and as provided for in Security Council resolution 435 (1978), follow-up action as to how the system of proportional representation will work in practice, will be elaborated by my Special Representative and the Administrator-General, in the context of their respective functions, once the implementation of the United Nations plan has commenced.

With agreement having been reached on the choice of the electoral system, all outstanding issues relevant to the United Nations plan for Namibia have now been resolved. I need hardly recall, in this connection, that the Security Council itself has, on more than one occasion rejected the linking of the independence of Namibia to irrelevant and extraneous issues as incompatible with resolution 435 (1978).

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I therefore feel it my duty to propose to Your Excellency that we now proceed to establish the earliest possible date for a cease-fire and the implementation of the Security Council resolution.

In view of the circulation of Your Excellency's letter as a document of the Security Council, I am having this letter circulated in the same manner.

(Signed) Javier PEREZ de CUELLAR
