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ENGLISH

PROVISIONAL VERBATIM RECORD OF THE TWO THOUSAND  
EIGHT HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-SECOND MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,  
on Tuesday, 29 August 1989, at 3.30 p.m.

President: Mr. DJOUDI

(Algeria)

Members: Brazil  
Canada  
China  
Colombia  
Ethiopia  
Finland  
France  
Malaysia  
Nepal  
Senegal  
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics  
United Kingdom of Great Britain and  
Northern Ireland  
United States of America  
Yugoslavia

Mr. FACHINI GOMES  
Mr. FORTIER  
Mr. YU Mengjia  
Mr. GRILLO  
Mr. GEBREMEDHIN  
Ms. RASI  
Mr. BLANC  
Mr. HASMY  
Mr. RANA  
Mr. BA  
Mr. LOZINSKY  
  
Sir Crispin TICKELL  
Mr. PICKERING  
Mr. KOTEVSKI

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The meeting was called to order at 4.10 p.m.

#### ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was adopted.

#### THE SITUATION IN NAMIBIA

LETTER DATED 10 AUGUST 1989 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF GHANA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL (S/20779)

LETTER DATED 10 AUGUST 1989 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ZIMBABWE TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL (S/20782)

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): In accordance with decisions taken at the previous meetings on this item, I invite the representative of Ghana to take a place at the Council table; I invite the representatives of Afghanistan, Angola, Bangladesh, Burundi, Cameroon, the Congo, Cuba, Egypt, the Federal Republic of Germany, Guatemala, India, Indonesia, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Mali, Mauritania, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Pakistan, South Africa, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe to take the places reserved for them at the side of the Council Chamber.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Gbeho (Ghana) took a place at the Council table; Mr. Roshan-Rawaan (Afghanistan), Mr. Diakenga Seroo (Angola), Mr. Mohiuddin (Bangladesh), Mr. Niyungeko (Burundi), Mr. Engo (Cameroon), Mr. Adouki (Congo), Mr. Oramas Oliva (Cuba), Mr. Badawi (Egypt), Mr. Bräutigam (Federal Republic of Germany), Mr. Villagran de Leon (Guatemala), Mr. Dasgupta (India), Mr. Sutresna (Indonesia), Mr. Treiki (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya), Mr. Diakite (Mali), Mr. Ould Mohamed Mahmoud (Mauritania), Miss Moncada Bermudez (Nicaragua), Mr. Garba (Nigeria), Mr. Ahmed (Pakistan), Mr. Sheerar (South Africa), Mr. Katsigazi (Uganda), Mr. Mongella (United Republic of Tanzania), Mr. Zuze (Zambia) and Mr. Mudenge (Zimbabwe) took the places reserved for them at the side of the Council Chamber.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): The Security Council will now resume its consideration of the item on its agenda.

Members of the Council have before them document S/20808/Rev.1, which contains the revised text of a draft resolution submitted by Algeria, Colombia, Ethiopia, Malaysia, Nepal, Senegal and Yugoslavia. I should like to draw the attention of members of the Council to the following documents: S/20803, letter dated 21 August 1989 from the Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General; and S/20810, letter dated 22 August 1989 from the Chairman of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples addressed to the President of the Security Council.

It is my understanding that the Council is ready to proceed to the vote on the revised draft resolution before it. Unless I hear any objection, I shall put the revised draft resolution to the vote.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

I shall first call on those members of the Council who wish to make statements before the vote.

Sir Crispin TICKELL (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland): In the Council's recent debate, and then in the consultations which have led up to the submission of the present revised draft resolution, two themes have been prominent. First, the need for the Council to be even-handed in overseeing the process leading up to independence in Namibia. As I put it in the debate on 21 August, the Council must not only be impartial but be seen to be impartial. Secondly, the need to uphold consensus in the Council to demonstrate undivided support for the Secretary-General and for the implementation of resolution 435 (1978) in all its aspects by all parties. The Council is united in its aims, and it is vital that it should show the same unity as it pursues them.

(Sir Crispin Tickell, United Kingdom)

I have to say that my delegation retains considerable doubts about the even-handedness and impartiality of the revised draft resolution that is before us today. As it states, the provisions of resolution 435 (1978) have not been fully complied with; and as was recalled during our debate since 1 April more than one party to the settlement plan has flouted its provisions. We believe that all parties have an equal responsibility to put these events behind them and to honour scrupulously the commitments into which they have entered under the settlement plan and the related understandings. But as it stands, operative paragraph 1 of the text refers specifically only to one party, South Africa. We assume, and will work on the assumption, that is an acknowledgement of the special responsibilities which we all recognize that South Africa should uphold under the United Nations settlement plan.

As I have already underlined, members of the Council have vital common objectives which should not be put in jeopardy. On the basis that I have outlined, and to sustain the unanimity which gives this Council's resolutions particular force, my delegation will vote for the present revised draft resolution.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): I shall now put to the vote the revised draft resolution contained in document S/20808/Rev.1.

A vote was taken by show of hands.

In favour: Algeria, Brazil, Canada, China, Colombia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Malaysia, Nepal, Senegal, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Yugoslavia

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): There were 15 votes in favour. The revised draft resolution has therefore been adopted unanimously as resolution 640 (1989).

I shall now call on those members of the Council who wish to make statements following the vote.

Mr. PICKERING (United States of America): For more than a decade, international efforts on behalf of Namibia have been focused in the United Nations. These efforts produced resolution 435 (1978), in which the Council agreed on a plan for an internationally supervised transition to full independence for Namibia through free and fair elections.

Since the adoption of that resolution, members of the Security Council have worked closely and constructively on this issue. Numerous resolutions have re-emphasized our will to resolve the Namibian situation through a peaceful transition.

The United Nations settlement plan, first laid out in 1978 and approved in resolution 435 (1978), has been the sole agreed format accepted by all the parties. All efforts since that date have been to bring the United Nations plan to fruition.

Many of the speakers in this debate have mentioned problems in implementation of the settlement. We all knew this road would be a difficult one. We have successfully averted a number of problems since the first day of implementation.

(Mr. Pickering, United States)

We will all need to continue to work together to help resolve future problems should they arise. Unless we co-operate, some of them may prove irresolvable. Past experience has shown that the combined, unanimous will of the international community will prevail on Namibia's behalf.

The United States has worked closely with other members of the Council, with other members of the United Nations and with interested parties in Namibia itself to bring the current debate to a successful conclusion. We have done so in the belief that the success of the Namibia settlement depends in large measure on the unity and cohesiveness of the Security Council on this issue.

We are therefore pleased to be able to join in the unanimous adoption of the present resolution, which truly represents a compromise among several strongly held positions about Namibia.

We note in this context that it is our understanding based on recent consultations that, in accordance with past practice, any decision on actual deployment of additional civilian personnel for the United Nations Transition Assistance Group (UNTAG) will be taken by the Secretary-General in appropriate consultation with the Council, as was done as recently as in May of 1989.

We join this compromise in the belief that unity in support of the Secretary-General and UNTAG is the key to their success.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): There are no further speakers for this meeting. The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on the agenda.

The meeting rose at 4.20 p.m.