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September 12-19, 1989

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In my usual rush to leave Los Angeles, I forgot to check my checklist and left some important items behind. A caution to others: CHECK YOUR CHECKLIST!!!

My flight on Zambian Airways arrived at Windhoek, Namibia on September 12, 1989. We were greeted at the airport by two uniformed South West Africa Police (SWAPOL) officers as we departed the plane. Some members of the National Patriotic Front (NPF) of Namibia were there to greet some of their members and leaders who were returning from abroad. The crowd carried colorful banners, flags and posters as they sang songs and waved as people departed the plane. I waved back after much hesitation, which caused them to laugh.

I was greeted at the airport by Reverend Peter Lamoela from the Council of Churches of Namibia. He was my host and guide during the time I stayed in Windhoek. During my stay in Windhoek, he was scheduled to leave for Capetown to be inducted as President of the United Congregational Churches of Southern Africa. He will be responsible for the countries of Namibia, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Zambia and Botswana.

The following is a brief summary of some of my observations during my first week in Namibia.

SWAPO CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEMBER ASSASSINATED

Anton Lubowski was assassinated in front of his home on the evening of September 12, 1989. He was shot at close range several times, the fatal shot hitting him in the head. Lubowski had been receiving death threats since his decision to become a member of SWAPO in 1984.

Lubowski was widely respected as an attorney and a member of SWAPO. His murder was condemned across the political spectrum in Namibia and around the world. While the atmosphere in Namibia remains tense, SWAPO and their supporters have not retaliated for what seems to be an intentional provocation to abort the election process in November of this year.

A Northern Ireland national was arrested for Lubowski's murder and arraigned on September 18, 1989. The identity of the alleged assassin is being kept secret, although The Namibian reports his name as Donald Acheson, a mercenary with right-wing Northern Irish connections. The assassination occurred two days before the scheduled arrival of SWAPO president Sam Nujoma. An "amorphous group" of racist right-ringers called the "Wit Wolve" or "White Wolves" has claimed responsibility for the murder. Meanwhile, police say the investigation is continuing. Lubowski was assassinated with an AK-47 assault weapon.

CODE OF CONDUCT

On the evening of September 11, 1989, an emergency meeting of church leaders was called to assess the ongoing election process in Namibia. Topics of

discussion included the laying ground rules for the conduct of political parties to ensure free and fair elections, ways to end widespread voter intimidation and the need to start foregoing reconciliation so that all Namibians will work together for a new, independent Namibia.

The various political parties in attendance were:

1. South West People's Africa Organization (SWAPO)
2. Namibia Christian Democratic Party (NCDP)
3. Namibia National Front (NNF)
4. South West Africa People's Organization-Democrats (SWAPO-D)
5. United Democratic Front (UDF)

On the evening of September 12, 1989, nine of the eleven political parties registered to participate in the November elections came together at the United Nations Transitional Assistance Group (UNTAG) headquarters in Windhoek to sign the 16 point code of conduct for the elections. It was signed by the following parties:

1. Action Christian National (ACN)
2. Democratic Turnhalle Alliance (DTA)
3. Federal Convention of Namibia (FCN)
4. NCDP
5. NNF
6. NPF
7. SWAPO
8. SWAPO-D
9. UDF

The Code of Conduct includes prohibitions against violence, disruption, or intimidation directed at other political parties and their supporters, plagiarism of other party symbols and communications which threaten or incite violence against others. The code also requires the signatories to emphasize secret balloting during the elections, to establish communications within the parties at all levels and to appoint a liaison to be contacted should any problems arise. All political parties will be required to meet bi-weekly with UNTAG to discuss campaign matters, to report all allegations of intimidation and other unlawful conduct to UNTAG and SWAPOL.