



435 OBSERVER
COMMITTEE

TO NAMIBIA



2824 South Western Avenue
Los Angeles, California 90018
USA

(213)733-2107---(213) 684-1892

***** WHY THE L.A. TO NAMIBIA COMMITTEE WAS FORMED *****

We are witnessing the climax of a twenty year struggle for independence in Namibia. We have an opportunity and a duty to show our solidarity and support to our comrades, our brothers and sisters in Namibia as they prepare for independence.

The 435 Committee was initiated in April, 1989, by concerned individuals, community activists, church members, attorneys, Southern African support groups and political organizations. Anyone interested in being part of this unfolding history is encouraged to work with us. We need your help to create real support and to participate in the independence of the new Namibian nation.

Under the leadership of the South West Africa Peoples Organization (SWAPO), Namibia has resisted the illegal occupation of South Africa and its military force of an estimated 100,000 soldiers.

UN Resolution 385

In 1976, the Security Council unanimously adopted Resolution 385, the forerunner of 435, which presented a formula for bringing Namibia to independence. It required Pretoria to immediately withdraw from the territory transferring power to the UN. The latter would therefore hold a territory-wide election in Namibia to select delegates to draft a constitution for an independent Namibia.

The power of this resolution was diluted when some members of the Security Council, particularly the US and Britain, raised the issue of "linkage". Cuban troops in Angola posed the dual threat of "communist infiltration" in the region and military might against incursions by South Africa. Therefore, they held the issue of Namibia's independence hostage to the removal of Cuban troops - the

"link" from 1978 to Resolution 435 reiterated the original intent of 385, a plan for Namibian independence, and added the question of sovereignty of Walvis Bay, to be resolved after independence is achieved.

namibia

COUNTDOWN TO INDEPENDENCE

The UN Plan for Namibian independence is laid out in Security Council Resolution 435 of 1978 and a number of other documents. The following timetable has been drawn up on the basis of these documents and the timing specified in Security Council Resolution 629 of 1989. Some changes may be introduced during the process.

1 April UN Special Representative and UN Transition Assistance Group (UNTAG), consisting of military and civilian personnel, arrive in Namibia. UN oversees ceasefire already in force: SWAPO and South African forces, including South West Africa Territory Force (SWATF) confined to base. UN monitors police forces. Release of political prisoners and detainees begins.

Mid-April Demilitarised Zone (DMZ) established 50 kilometres either side of Namibian/Angolan and Namibian/Zambian borders - but selected locations exempt until end of June.

Mid-May South African military forces reduced to 12,000. SWATF command structures dismantled, including Area Force Units. South African troops in SWATF withdrawn and military equipment placed under UN supervision. Exiles and refugees begin to return. All discriminatory and restrictive legislation repealed.

Early June South African force levels reduced to 8,000. Completion of release of political prisoners and detainees.

1 July All South African military bases closed except Grootfontein and Oshivello. South African forces reduced to 1,500. Official start of election campaign. Voter registration begins.

Early November National election of Constituent Assembly.

Mid-November All remaining South African troops withdrawn and military facilities closed. Constituent Assembly convened to draw up constitution.

Unspecified date Independence - anticipated within five months of election.

***** WHAT IS TO BE DONE! *****

Objectives of the 435 Committee:

1. Develop educationals and forums on Namibian elections and independence.
2. To gather financial aid to SWAPO in preparation for the election process.
3. Send two observers to Namibia and obtain sponsors to enable more observers to go.

Active Committee

1. **Educational:** to provide speakers, videos, educational forums and house meetings to interested community organizations.
2. **Outreach:** To seek out endorsers and sponsors, concerned individuals, organizations, elected officials and entertainers.

3. **Finance Committees.**

4. **Fact finding/clearing house:**

- (a) Disseminate information on Namibia;
- (b) Provides up dated on Namibian Independence Time Table;
- (c) Passport/Visa information. (This is the first step as it can take three months to have your visa application processed);
- (d) There is a cost estimate of \$2,500 per person for transportation and living expenses.

5. **Media Committee.**

If you would like to become an active participant by sponsoring an observer, please make your checks payable to L.A. to Namibia Committee and mail to 2824 S. Western, Los Angeles, California 90018.

THE TIME IS NOW. We ask your participation in this historic task. Consider going to Namibia, to be an observer, or get involved with the LA TO NAMIBIA COMMITTEE and help sponsor others to work within this process.

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L.A. TO NAMIBIA
435 Observer Committee



FREEDOM NOW: THE CAMPAIGN FOR NAMIBIA

EIGHT OBJECTIVES

1. FULLY SUPPORT THE U.N. TRANSITION PLAN.

The United Nations plan for Namibia's transition to independence--providing for the return of refugees, the repeal of discriminatory legislation and the holding of free elections--should be properly resourced and monitored by the international community. These elections must be completely free of interference and intimidation both from internal parties representing South Africa and from external parties in South Africa and other countries.

2. OPPOSE OUTSIDE INTERFERENCE IN NAMIBIA.

Independent Namibia must not be subject to external military pressure or destabilization from South Africa. There must be international respect for Namibia's national sovereignty and a commitment to non-interference in its internal affairs.

3. GUARANTEE NAMIBIA'S TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY INCLUDING WALVIS BAY.

The territorial integrity and unity of Namibia must be assured, and Walvis Bay fully integrated within its territory. All Namibia's boundaries must be respected in accordance with international laws.

4. ENSURE THAT SOUTH AFRICA PAYS ITS FOREIGN DEBT ACCRUED IN NAMIBIA.

The 750 million rand foreign debt accrued by South Africa during its illegal occupation should not be inherited by a newly independent Namibia.

5. COMPENSATE NAMIBIA FOR YEARS OF EXPLOITATION.

All natural resources acquired by other countries or firms during the illegal colonial occupation of Namibia should be returned to the government of independent Namibia to control as it sees fit. Compensation should be paid to independent Namibia for the unfair exploitation of its natural resources, especially its fish, beef and mineral resources.

6. LEAVE NAMIBIA'S INFRASTRUCTURE INTACT.

South Africa should depart Namibia and leave all physical infrastructure and public property intact. The U.N. should closely monitor this and insure that South Africa compensates independent Namibia for any infrastructure or equipment damage. Public property should not be privatized during the transitional period.

7. PROVIDE AID TO NAMIBIA'S IMPOVERISHED PEOPLE.

Bilateral, multilateral and non-governmental aid must be directed to independent Namibia to enable the formerly dispossessed to control their own lives and resources. Aid should be directed to the poorest, most historically oppressed and disenfranchised sectors of the population. This aid should promote self-sufficiency, self-reliance and be based upon the maximum participation of those for whom it is intended. Large-scale infrastructure development is important to Namibia's future and should be made available to assist the country in developing food security systems, transportation systems, communication systems and the industrial infrastructure that is so essential to building national unity and a national economy and to insuring maximum independence from South Africa.

8. END APARTHEID IN SOUTH AFRICA.

South Africa's policy of grand apartheid threatens the entire southern Africa region. Continued pressure must be exerted on South Africa to stop its crimes against humanity and to bring an end to apartheid.