

American Committee on Africa

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Statement by George M. Houser on the occasion of his travel to Namibia

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

On May 19, 1967, the United Nations General Assembly, by an overwhelming majority, adopted Resolution 2248 establishing the United Nations Council for Namibia (South West Africa). By a previous resolution (Res. 2145) the General Assembly had terminated South Africa's mandate over the Territory. This was subsequently reinforced by the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on June 21, 1971. Furthermore, this Court opinion declared that South Africa was illegally occupying Namibia and that member states of the U.N. had an obligation to recognize as invalid all acts of South Africa in relation to Namibia.

The U.N. Council for Namibia has the power to "administer Namibia until independence... and to promulgate such laws, decrees and administrative regulations as are necessary for the administration of the territory...", by action of the United Nations.

On May 4, 1972, in preparation for a trip to Africa, I applied by letter to the U.N. Council for Namibia for a visa allowing me to enter the Territory. They granted me this visa and it is presently in my passport. To my knowledge, mine was the first request to the Council for a visa and, therefore, the first visa granted.

I plan to proceed to Namibia by regular air travel, which is my legal right. I hope that every consideration will be given to me to proceed to Namibia without difficulty and thus uphold the decision of the United Nations in its determination to help achieve an independent Namibia as soon as possible.