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Japan

PERMANENT MISSION OF JAPAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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Press Release

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STATEMENT BY H.E. MR. K. KIKUCHI,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF JAPAN,
AT THE FOURTEENTH SPECIAL SESSION OF
THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY
ON THE "QUESTION OF NAMIBIA"

19 SEPTEMBER 1986

Mr. President,

Let me, at the outset, express on behalf of my delegation my delight in seeing you elected to the presidency of this special session. Our two countries enjoy friendly relations, and we in Japan regard you, Sir, as a close friend.

Over the years, the Security Council and General Assembly have adopted a number of resolutions on the question of Namibia; the frontline states, the UN Secretary-General and other parties have made serious efforts to resolve the issue; and many countries, including my own, have been applying strong pressure on South Africa in a variety of ways. Nevertheless, South Africa continues its illegal occupation of Namibia.

Japan, along with the overwhelming majority of Member States, continues to insist that the independence of Namibia must be achieved in accordance with the wishes of its inhabitants as expressed through a free election to be held under the supervision of the United Nations. To this end, it is imperative that the

parties concerned faithfully implement Security Council resolution 435 (1978), which is the only internationally accepted basis for a settlement.

South Africa, however, while professing its cooperation with the international community, has not in fact been working toward the implementation of resolution 435.

Its introduction of the so-called linkage issue is a case in point. Japan has steadfastly maintained that efforts to resolve the Namibian question must not be obstructed by any extraneous issues. It should be noted in this connection that on 3 March of this year South Africa proposed that 1 August 1986 be set as the date for the commencement of implementation of the Settlement Plan based on United Nations Security Council resolution 435. It is very discouraging that although this proposal appears to be a positive step forward, it is not, since South Africa still insists on the precondition that "a firm and satisfactory agreement ... be reached before that date on the withdrawal of Cuban forces from Angola."

It is also recalled that in June of 1985, South Africa set up a so-called interim government in Namibia, claiming that it was "an interim mechanism for the internal administration of the territory pending agreement on an internationally acceptable independence."

All the world knows that this claim cannot be taken seriously.

Japan regards this so-called interim government as null and void because it is incompatible with resolution 435.

South Africa's armed attacks against neighboring countries must be halted forthwith; such actions surely destabilize the situation throughout southern Africa and make the possibility of settling the Namibia issue even more remote. We particularly deplore the recent attack against Zambia, Zimbabwe and Botswana on 19 May this year, as well as the repeated armed incursions into the territory of Angola.

Mr. President,

Those who are most seriously affected are, of course, the people of Namibia who are suffering under the occupation of South Africa or who have been forced out of their native land as refugees, as well

as the neighboring countries that are accepting these refugees. Japan has long been extending assistance to the Namibian people through its contributions to the humanitarian and educational funds and programmes administered by the United Nations. In fiscal year 1986, Japan's pledged contributions to these efforts for the Namibian people and the victims of apartheid in South Africa amounted to \$550,000 U.S. dollars. Japan is determined to extend such assistance as long as the need continues. And when UNTAG comes into being, Japan will provide assistance in the forms of financial contributions and personnel. Once the independence of Namibia is achieved, Japan will spare no effort in extending bilateral economic and technical cooperation throughout its initial nation-building period.

Japan has also taken vigorous measures to induce South Africa to end its apartheid policy and its illegal occupation of Namibia.

1. Japan maintains no diplomatic relations with South Africa nor does it recognize the so-called bantustan states.

2. In demonstrating its disapproval of South Africa's illegal occupation of Namibia, Japan refrains from any action which would in effect acknowledge the present status of Namibia. For example, the Government of Japan does not extend cooperation such as grants, loans or technical assistance of any kind to South Africans in Namibia.

3. In the field of economic relations:

The Government of Japan prohibits direct investment in South Africa and Namibia by Japanese nationals or corporations under its jurisdiction. Recognizing the political significance of Decree No. 1 for the Protection of the Natural Resources of Namibia, which was enacted by the United Nations Council for Namibia in 1974, the Government of Japan brought it to the attention of the Japanese people in general by publishing the Decree in, inter alia, the official bulletin of the Japanese Government. Consequently, no Japanese national or corporation maintains mining concessions in Namibia. The Government of Japan has no economic or financial

agreement, including a double taxation agreement, with the Government of South Africa.

4. The Government of Japan has called upon Japanese commercial banks and their branches abroad not to extend loans to South Africa. Japanese banks continue to faithfully observe this appeal.

5. There is absolutely no military cooperation between Japan and South Africa, nor is there any exchange of military personnel, including military attachés.

6. Japan maintains its basic policy of not exporting arms to any country, particularly to South Africa. Its vigorous observance of the arms embargo against South Africa (as decided by Security Council resolution 418 (1977)), is strictly enforced and recognized in the relevant documents of the United Nations, including those of the Security Council's Sanctions Committee.

7. Japan has never extended cooperation of any kind to South Africa in the field of nuclear development. Japan has not exported nuclear reactors or related materials, nor has it extended any technical assistance to South Africa.

8. Japan severely restricts cultural, educational and sports contacts with South Africa, and has no cultural agreement with that country. We, in principle, do not issue visas to South Africans who apply for entry into Japan for the purpose of cultural, educational or sporting activities.

Moreover, on 9 October 1985 the Government of Japan decided to take the following additional measures:

(a) To prohibit, by reinforcing existing laws and regulations, the export to South Africa of computers that might assist the activities of organizations which enforce apartheid, such as the South African armed forces and police;

(b) To urge all Japanese to cooperate by not importing Krugerrands or other South African gold coins;

(c) To increase Japanese assistance in the area of the development of human resources in southern African countries, with a view to helping to improve the status of black people in the region;

(d) To call upon Japanese companies that have offices in South

Africa to follow equal and fair employment practices.

The Government of Japan renews its appeal to all the parties concerned to reach a solution of the problem through dialogue, and in particular it urges the South African Government to make a political decision to release unconditionally Mr. Nelson Mandela and all other political prisoners, to lift the ban on anti-apartheid organizations such as the ANC and the PAC, and to begin talks with a wide range of black leaders as soon as possible.

The Government of Japan announced today that it will take, in a spirit of cooperation with other countries, the following additional restrictive measures with a view to conveying its opposition until the Government of South Africa, taking into consideration those requests of the Government of Japan, demonstrates its concrete will to abolish apartheid:

(i) It will prohibit the import of iron and steel;

(ii) It will suspend the issuance of tourist visas for South African

nationals and request the Japanese people to refrain voluntarily from touring to South Africa;

(iii) It confirms the suspension of air links with South Africa;

(iv) It will prohibit to use the international airlines of South African Airways by Government officials.

Furthermore, it is the intention of the Government of Japan to continue to expand and strengthen its cooperation to help raise the social status of the black population of South Africa in the hope of creating an environment conducive to the solution of the problem through dialogue. It is also determined to strengthen its economic cooperation with the neighboring countries which will suffer economic difficulties as the South African situation develops.

Mr. President,

Japan has, in fact, already been making efforts to expand its relations with other African countries. Over the past ten years we have seen a dramatic increase in our economic assistance to those countries.

For example, Japan's bilateral Official Development Assistance to Africa in 1984 represented a more than tenfold increase over the assistance it extended in 1973. Japan is the second largest non-regional contributor both to the African Development Bank and to the African Development Fund. And in the field of technical cooperation, approximately 40 per cent of Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers ("youth corps") are sent to Africa, where they are cooperating with local people at the grass-roots level.

Mr. President,

When the United Nations was founded forty-one years ago, the majority of the people on earth were under the yoke of colonialism. Since then the peoples of Asia and Africa have obtained their independence and joined the international community of independent countries. Racial discrimination has been eradicated throughout much of the world.

It is disheartening, however, that in southern Africa there

still exists a major remnant of colonialism and a particularly virulent strain of racism.

Japan fully concurs with the view of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, as was expressed last week in his annual report on the work of the Organization, that "the most urgent remaining problem of decolonization is certainly that of Namibia."

The international community is united in calling for Namibian independence and the eradication of apartheid; its voice is growing louder with each passing day. I fervently hope that our appeals will be answered, and that the day will soon come when we can welcome Namibia as a Member State of the United Nations in this General Assembly Hall.

Thank you, Mr. President.