

AWE PAA

NEWS BULLET IN

Association of West European Parliamentarians for Action Against Apartheid

V01. VI, No. 6, November/December 1992

GENERAL PEACE ACCORD OF MOZAMBIQUE

Rome, 4 October 1992

EXCERPTS (Unofficial translation)

The Supervisory and Monitoring Commission (CSC)

- The Supervisory and Monitoring Commission (CSC) is established, which shall begin Operating upon appointment of its Chairman by the Secretary-General of the United Nations. A The decisions of CSC shall be taken by consensus between the two Parties.

- CSC shall cease to function when the new Government takes office.

- CSC shall have under it the following Commissions:

(a) The Joint Commission for the Formation of the

Mozambican Defence Force (CCFADM)

(b) The Cease-fire Commission (CCF)

((3) Reintegration Commission (CORE).

Cease-fire Commission (CCF)

- CCF shall have, inter alia, the function of implementing the demobilization process, with the following tasks:

_ Registration of troops to be demobilized and issue of the respective identity cards;

Collection, registration and custody of weapons, ammunition, explosives, equipment, uniforms and documentation;

destroying Or deciding on the other disposition of weapons, ammunition, explosives, equipment, uniforms and

documentation as agreed by the Parties;

Formation of the Mozambican Defense Force

- The Mozambican Defense Force (FADM) shall be formed for service throughout the national territory.

The Parties agree that the troop strength of the FADM up until the time when the new Government takes office shall be as follows:

(a) Army: 24,000

(b) Air Force: 4,000

(c) Navy: 2,000

- The personnel of the FADM in each of the service branches shall be provided by the FAM and the forces of RENAMO, each side contributing 50 per cent.

- The parties agree to establish a J oint Commission for the Formation of the Mozambican Defence Force (CCFADM).

CCFADM is the body responsible for the formation of the FADM until the time when the new Government takes office.

_ Until the new Government takes office, the command of FADM shall be exercised by two general officers of equal rank, appointed by each of the Parties. Decisions of the command shall be valid only when signed by these two general officers;

Withdrawal of foreign troops from Mozambican territory

_ The complete withdrawal of foreign forces and contingents from Mozambican territory shall be monitored and verified by the Cease-fire Commission referred to in paragraph VI.(i).2 of this Protocol (CCF). CCF shall inform CSC of the conclusion of the complete withdrawal of foreign forces from the national territory.

- In accordance with its mandate CSC, through CCF, will, following the withdrawal of the foreign troops, assume immediate responsibility for verifying and ensuring security of strategic and trading routes, adopting the measures it deems necessary for the purpose.

The cessation of the armed conflict

The cessation of the armed conHict (CAC) consists of 4 (four) phases:

- cease-fire;

- separation of forces;

_ concentration of forces;

- demobilization.

Operational timetable for the cease-fire

13-Day is the day on which the General Peace Agreement is adopted

by the Assembly of the Republic and incorporated into Mozambican law. The deployment of United Nations personnel in Mozambican territory to verify the cease-fire shall begin the same day.

(continued on next page)

CONTENTS

General Peace Accord of Mozambique

SA: Wars with different weapons

Violent stalemate continues - AWEPA Report

Rebuilding relations: Central Europe and SA in transition

SACBC visit to Eastern Europe

Namibia: AWEPA fact-finding mission

Reconciliation and democratisation

International Conference in Namibia

QQUIJith-t

co

AWEPA - Prins Hendrikkade 48 - 1012 AC Amsterdam - Netherlands

Phone (31) 20 - 626.66.39 - Telex 10236 sanam nl - Fax (31) 20 - 622.01.30

E-Day:

(15.10.1992)

E-Day t 30:

E-Day 4- 31:

E-Day t 180:

Entry into force of the cease-fire and
beginning of United Nations
verification

Beginning of the separation of forces
phase

End of the concentration of forces
phase

End of the withdrawal of foreign
forces and contingents from the
country

Definition by both Parties of the
troops to be demobilized;

Beginning of the demobilization
phase; at a rate of total troops to be
demobilized every 30 days

End of the demobilisation phase and
of the CAC.

Specific guarantees for the period from the cease-fire
to the holding of the elections

- The Government of the Republic of Mozambique
The Government shall draft the Electoral Act in
consultation with RENAMO and the other parties
within at most two months from the adoption by
the Assembly of the Republic of the legal
instruments incorporating the Protocols and
guarantees, as well as the General Peace
Agreement, into Mozambican law.

The election campaign shall begin 45 days before
the date of the elections;

Elections to the Assembly of the Republic

- The Electoral Act shall provide for an electoral
system based on the principle of proportional
representation for election to the Assembly.

Annex:

Composition of Commissions

CSC - Supervisory and Monitoring Commission

UN

Special Representative, Aldo Ajello (chair)

Government of Mozambique

Renamo

Portugal

Italy

France

UK

USA

shall submit a formal request to the United
Nations for its participation in monitoring and
guaranteeing the implementation of the General
Peace Agreement, in particular the cease-fire and
the electoral process, with immediate priority to
coordinating and making available food, medical
attention and all other forms of support necessary
at the assembly and billeting locations for the
forces as provided in Protocol VI.

The Government of the Republic of Mozambique
shall draw up in agreement with RENAMO and
the relevant United Nations agencies, in
accordance with Protocol III, the plan for
assistance to refugees and displaced persons,
which shall be submitted to the donors,
conference the holding of which is agreed upon in
Protocol VII.

RENAMO shall be responsible for the immediate
personal security of its top leader. The
Government of the Republic of Mozambique
shall grant police status to the members of

RENAMO assigned to guarantee that security.
In order to ensure greater tranquillity and stability in the period between the entry into force of the cease-fire and the time when the new Government takes office, the Parties agree that the institutions provided for by law for the conduct of the public administration in the areas controlled by RENAMO shall employ only citizens resident in those areas, who may be members of RENAMO.
Timetable for the conduct of the electoral process
- The elections to the Assembly of the Republic and the post of President of the Republic shall be held simultaneously and shall take place one year after the date of signature of the General Peace Agreement.

By E-Day t 60, the Government shall establish the National Elections Commission provided for in Protocol III;

CFC - Ceasefire Commission

UN (chair)

GRM

Renamo

Botswana

Nigeria

Egypt

Italy

Portugal

France

UK

USA

CCFADM - Commission for the Armed Forces

UN

GRM

Renamo

Portugal

France

UK

CORE - Commission on Reintegration

UN (chair)

GRM

Renamo

and invited:

Portugal

Italy

France

UK

USA

Sweden

Denmark

Norway

Germany

Netherlands

Spain

Switzerland

South Africa

SOUTH AFRICA:

WARS WITH DIFFERENT WEAPONS

Foreign visitors to South Africa who only follow South African developments by watching the local television programmes get a distorted view of South African reality. The state controlled media continue to promote President De Klerk as the patient statesman who is struggling hard to achieve democracy, but who sees his efforts obstructed by opponents with unreasonable demands and mass actions. These media continue to regard the white minority as the centre of gravity in a country which has to grapple with problems such as the black problem, the Indian problem and the black-on-black violence.

Independent media in South Africa, however, paint a completely different picture: in an almost weekly stream of revelations it has become abundantly clear that government institutions are actively engaged in disrupting any successful negotiation process by discrediting the ANC and by prolonging the violence in the townships. According to the Commission Goldstone, reporting on November 16, a military information service has even employed a convicted murderer to discredit the ANC, with the full knowledge of the then Minister of Defence Roelf Meyer, who is now negotiating with the ANC on behalf of the regime. There is therefore no longer any doubt in the ranks of the South African democratic movement that influential elements in the South African Information- and Security Services are implicated in subversive activities, such as the supply of arms to and even active participation in the perpetration of violence. These activities to discredit the ANC and to disrupt the negotiating process (in which also high-ranking officers in SADF and SAP are implicated), are internally considered a greater threat to the transition in South Africa than the rank and file support of members of the police and armed forces for extremist right-wing organisations as the Afrikaner Weerstand Beweging (AWB), which usually attract more international media attention. It is in De Klerk's interest to have international concern focus more on publicly organised right-wing extremism than on subversive activities by high-ranking members of state organs. It seems still uncertain whether these activities take place with De Klerk's (explicit or implicit) consent or whether the State President is powerless to take action against those forces, as he is apprehensive of the consequences. Whatever the case, De Klerk can at least be held co-responsible for a continuation of the violence. And it seems without doubt that De Klerk's attitude towards the ANC is, to say the least, ambivalent.

Despite De Klerk's alleged double agenda, it is widely accepted that a negotiated agreement on an interim government, elections and a constituent assembly is within reach. The two main players in South Africa, the ANC and the National Party, are in fact close to a significant compromise. The ANC's Thabo Mbeki supports the so-called sunset clause, according to which a coalition government of ANC and NP will be constitutionally guaranteed for a period between five and ten years. Such compromise is deemed necessary to break the deadlock over the issue of regional autonomy and the security forces.

However, now that two main players seem prepared to make compromises, the ANC is beginning to wonder whether the NP remains strong enough to implement whatever agreement may be reached. The

government is weakened by the revelations about complicity in subversive actions related to the political violence in the country. The ruling party, moreover, is embarrassed by the reports of the Commission De Meyer and the Commission Parsons which disclosed corruption in the financing (by Pretoria) of the homelands. The NP itself is divided between those who favour a coalition (or at least cooperation) with the ANC and those who want to defeat the ANC at all costs. Nonetheless, De Klerk seems to have no option but to continue negotiating with the ANC.

One of the two major obstacles to constitutional progress remains the prolonged political violence in the townships which is fanned by the continued activities of security services and elements within army and police. The other obstacle is De Klerk's refusal (or perhaps it should be termed impotence) to challenge the ambition of Gatsha Buthelezi to be counted as a major factor in South African politics. This man, who does not hesitate to publicly threaten with violence and even civil war, is widely held responsible for the continuation of the violence, especially in the townships of Natal, where his Inkatha Freedom Party has lost support to the ANC. In a sense Buthelezi can be seen as a key player in South African politics. Not so much because of the strength of his support base, for his popular support by no means is as strong as the seven million Zulus he claims. According to practically all opinion polls and surveys, Buthelezi has seen the support for his Inkatha Freedom Party generally dwindle to no more than 300,000 members of the Zulu people (excluding those who until now are recipients of his enforced patronage in the KwaZulu homeland). However, Buthelezi continues to remain a key player because of the support among the white electorate and also within De Klerk's NP.

When recently, in September, De Klerk and the ANC concluded an agreement without the IFP, Buthelezi must have been apprehensive that De Klerk might be on the verge of ditching the IFP as a political force to be reckoned with. Within the NP the pro-IFP faction seems to lose ground to those who favour an alliance of the NP with the ANC, which proves to be a moderate, conciliatory movement. Buthelezi's fears (of this possible shift in allegiance within De Klerk's environment) were strengthened when Mandela appealed to Zulu king Goodwill Zwelithini to cooperate in the pursuit of peace, thereby ostentatiously bypassing Buthelezi, who, true to character, reacted furiously. It is generally assumed that Buthelezi's personality make-up has the

tendency to become ever more violence-prone when he believes to be increasingly frustrated in his ambitions.

In the meantime the South African majority is getting weary of the lack of progress. The high expectations aroused by the unbanning of the liberation movements in 1990 have virtually dwindled. The ANC can still count on the support of the majority of the people, but undoubtedly the more radical supporters will not understand why the ANC is seen to be compromising to De Klerk's intransigent constitutional demands. There is cynical disbelief about the politicians' incapacity to stop the violence, the brunt of which has shifted once more from the PWV (Pretoria-Witwatersrand-Vereeniging) to Natal (since August this year). There is also disappointment that Europe's concern about the ethnic cleansing in former Yugoslavia is not matched with a similar concern about the miserable consequences of the ethnic cleansing in South Africa, which has been practised in many decades of racism and apartheid. Finally, the number of informal settlements, (formerly less euphemistically termed slum areas or shantytowns) has increased enormously in South Africa. Contributing factors are as usual the migratory labour and the poverty in the homelands and the rural areas. New factors are the violence and the drought. Last year these factors were responsible for 75,000 internally displaced persons. This number has in 1992 dramatically increased to over one million.

VIOLENT STALEMATE CONTINUES 7

AWEPPA Delegation to South Africa Report . ,
During the first week of November 1992, a nine-member AWEPPA delegation visited South Africa to assess: progress toward a negotiated political settlement; implementation of the peace accord; the adequacy of violence monitoring; the current state of the economy; the situation of marginalised youth; progress in education for democracy training programmes; and the role of the international community in South Africa. The delegation was led by AWEPPA President Jan Nico Scholten, and included: Donald Anderson, MP, UK; Luc Dhoore, MP, Belgium; Hans-Göran Franck, MP, Sweden; Barbara Simons and Nadia Vanhamme, from the European Parliament; Lech Papiński, Supreme Court of Poland; AWEPPA Director Barty Lihmann-Fuchs; and Dr. Jeff Balch, African-European Institute.

The delegation met with a range of officials and representatives from the liberation movement, the government, the churches, the business community and various NGOs in South Africa. Here follow excerpts from some of the meetings:

Rev. Frank Chikane, General-Secretary of the South African Council of Churches, briefed the delegation on the current situation in South Africa. He stated that unlike in May or June of this year, there are now no clear scenarios for how the transition will proceed. None of the previous scenarios anticipated the massacres at Boipatong and Bisho. The deadlock and collapse of CODESA II is the origin of the present uncertainty, because it made clear that the government is not yet ready to give up power. The government only appears ready to accept a system in which white control is maintained. He stressed the need as soon as possible to set a date for elections. Rev. Chikane saw the role of the international community as very important in the transition period: in order to monitor the process and give support to the liberation movement. The present

numbers of UN and other international monitors are far too small. More need to come, they must be more visible in a preventive role, and they must monitor and ensure that all parties respect the negotiated agreements. Remaining economic sanctions must be maintained, and no new agreements should be signed with the present government. The National Economic Forum offers a much more legitimate base for decision-making. Finally, the international community should support the ANC and other liberation forces to help balance out the inequality evident in negotiations with the government. Kagiso Trust and others referred to the government's role in the ongoing violence. Given the professional mechanisms at its disposal, it is said that the government could put a stop to the violence if it really wanted to. One is left to conclude that elements of the police, the security forces and the government are in collusion on the continuing violence, which is eroding support for the ANC and producing a loss of confidence in the whole negotiation process the longer it lasts. This appeared to be part of a government plan to discredit the ANC during the course of prolonged negotiations. The best remedy, for this seemed to be the early setting of a target date for elections.

Patrick Lekota of the ANC Elections Commission referred to the Angolan experience and underlined the crucial role the international community can play as a neutral force, involved throughout the entire process, not just brought in after the fact. He also stressed the need to educate the majority of the people who are unfamiliar with the voting process. External resources and experience could be vital in this endeavour.

Paul Graham, Director of the IDASA Training Centre for Democracy, concurred with this position, stating a desire to engage with AWEPPA and like-minded groups to start planning for all that will be needed during the run-up to elections. If the consensus emerging around a possible date for elections in the third quarter of 1993 is correct, then there is some urgency to begin now to reach out to the potential electorate of 21 million, half of whom are illiterate. A media monitoring network is being established this month, for example, and technical expertise from Europe on media monitoring would be very welcome.

Roelf Meyer, South African Minister for

Constitutional Affairs, offered the AWEPA delegation two unconvincing reasons why the government was trying to speed up a return to multilateral negotiations: it was politically disadvantageous to continue to be linked to (past) apartheid policies; and it was economically stagnating to have foreign investors frightened off by the violence and instability. He blamed the present delay on the violence in Natal, suggesting that only Mr. Mandela and Chief Buthelezi could find the political solution necessary, and warned of future anarchy if South Africa should turn into an Angola-type situation. Government actions appear less focused than its rhetoric, and the dubious role of South Africa in supporting war in Angola via UNITA through the years is well known.

Paula McBride with Lawyers for Human Rights endorsed the reports of Amnesty International and the International Commission of Jurists, and recommended an investigative task force to be attached to the Goldstone Commission of Enquiry. A witness protection programme is needed, and a proposal has been made for a pro-active, preventative, domestic peace-keeping force to give the National Peace Accord some teeth. She referred to a tremendous loss of faith in the criminal justice system, reflected also in the lack of police competence in investigating violent crime or even in showing up when called.

Bobby Godsell of Anglo-American Corporation offered a longer term perspective of development policy in a new South Africa, warning of the Icarus scenario from Greek mythology in which a new government could fly too close to the sun with too large a welfare state, melting the wax from its wings and falling back into the sea. Poverty can't be addressed in South Africa by raising taxes, he said, because there is no immediate pot of gold. The solution lies in a globally competitive economy, with redistribution through growth, and with market access more important than development assistance - trade being better than aid.

The AWEPA delegation also spoke with Victims of violence and viewed firsthand the damage done in attacks from hostels on nearby homes in Soweto, accompanied by Peace Action representatives and with the assistance of the Southern African Catholic Bishops Conference.

It was clear that the responsibility of the South African government to deal with the spiral of violence needed to be underlined. The grand apartheid homeland structures appear to be a key obstacle in proceeding with negotiations and controlling the violence. Needless to say, despite the government's propaganda offensive to the contrary, apartheid is still very much alive in South Africa. The government is clearly not addressing the constraints on marginalised youth in South Africa, a situation not unrelated to the violence and one which demands immediate attention. One need only remind of the Inkathagate scandal involving secret government funding to underline the necessity of an independent electoral commission to run the first democratic elections in South Africa. The government is not a neutral party, and the international community cannot accept that it be both player and referee if a free and fair process is to be the outcome. Interim government structures must be put in place as a matter of urgency, early agreement must be reached on the electoral law and independent media commission, a date for elections must be set, and

first-time voters must receive some form of civic education, sooner rather than later.

A REBUILDING RELATIONS:

In cooperation with the government and parliament of Austria, AWEPA and the African-European Institute organised a conference in the Austrian Parliament in Vienna on 7-9 October. The purpose of the conference was to investigate and explore the impact of significant recent political and economic changes in both Southern Africa and Central and Eastern Europe on inter-regional trade, investment and development cooperation relations. In addition to participants from Southern Africa and Western Europe, large delegations from Central Europe attended the conference, especially from Poland, Czechoslovakia and Hungary.

Dr. Heinz Fischer, Speaker of the Austrian Parliament, opened the conference by stating that the topics under discussion were both timely and important. This was underlined by the fact that Europe was increasingly looking towards its own significant problems, such as the war in former Yugoslavia, making it all the more necessary to draw attention to the transitional problems in other world Central Europe and Southern Africa in Transition regions, especially Southern Africa. Dr. Fischer asked that the conference look closely at the issue of irreversibility in South Africa in the light of escalating violence, stating that it was hard to say exactly when the point of no return was reached in Central and Eastern Europe.

Mrs. Brigitte Ederer, Austrian Minister of State for European Integration and Development Cooperation, gave the keynote address in the opening session. She stressed that apartheid is not yet dead in South Africa, and explained that this motivated the government to merely suspend sanctions at this stage and not lift them altogether. She called for an interim government in South Africa, stating that as long as the political power over the police and security forces lies with the present government there would be no true steps toward democracy.

History is being written in the struggles for self-determination, she said, and the major challenge of the day is to provide concrete material assistance and political support to the transition processes. After the

formal demise of apartheid, its socio-economic impact will still remain to be dealt with. Some responsibility in this regard must rest with the Western industrialised countries which stood up against apartheid in words, but whose actions fell short of the measures called for in UN Security Council Resolutions. She spoke of a moral duty to compensate South Africans non-white population and the neighbouring countries, especially now given the worst drought in human memory in the region.

Mr. Jacob Houtman, Head of the Southern Africa Division of the European Commission, mentioned the encouraging developments in a period of positive transition in Southern Africa, especially those in Angola and Mozambique, describing European Commission assistance to the region through the Special Programme for South Africa and the commitments to the SADC States under the Lomé Convention. The continuing violence in South Africa has underlined the importance of international observers, and Mr. Houtman announced that the EC was sending 15 observers to be associated with the National Peace Accord and 5 to the Goldstone Commission's investigative task force.

Mr. Houtman welcomed the establishment of the Southern African Development Community, noting that aid for the period to 1995 will focus on transport and communication, food, agriculture, human resources and trade development and business activities. For Angola a special Community Platform for 1992/93 totals ECU 70 million in assistance, and for Mozambique there is a standing offer to host a donor conference on economic and social reconstruction.

Mr. Jan Nico Scholten, President of AWEPPA, stressed the need for immediate action in support of Southern Africa, in particular in relation to the drought and economic crises. Of the 130 million people in Southern Africa, some 18 million are at risk of dying. Between now and Christmas in 1992, he said, some 4 million children in Africa will die. The end of apartheid would be like another symbolic Berlin wall coming down, and the conference was a way to prepare for that day, and to help ensure that a uniting and free Europe doesn't egocentrically lose sight of its partnership relations with Southern Africa.

Many speakers at the conference described in detail the transition processes in Central European and Southern African countries. Some similarities were noted between the two regions, and part of the discussion was devoted to trilateral cooperation in the East-West-South context. Addressing the topic of transition processes in Central Europe on behalf of Foreign Minister Mock, Mr. Heribert Steinbauer, MP, Austria, singled out for attention four major problems of economic transformation: lack of new employment opportunity; obsolete technology; ecological disaster; and competition during a worldwide recession.

Mr. Ould Abdallah, UN Special Coordinator for Africa, introduced the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s. AWEPPA members were urged to focus their efforts on the implementation of the New Agenda, to assist in generating sufficient international support for this effort. One general conclusion reached, was that support for Central and Eastern Europe from the international community must not come at the expense of support for Southern Africa.

SACBC VISIT TO EASTERN EUROPE

After the Vienna conference of AWEPA in October two delegations of the Southern African Catholic Bishops' Conference visited Poland, Hungary and Czechoslovakia, in order to exchange views on the transition taking place in Eastern Europe and in South Africa.

In Warsaw, Budapest and Prague meetings took place with representatives of the Roman Catholic church and with politicians. On the part of the SACBC an overview was given of the situation in South Africa, with special emphasis on:

I the political violence in the townships;

I the negotiations, CODESA and the prospects for elections;

I the drought and the support for white farmers;

I the media under state control, like SABC and SAPA;

I the homelands;

the historical and social economic background of apartheid;

European emigration;

peaceful demonstrations and mass action;

the role of the churches;

the role of the West.

The delegation to Poland consisted of Bishop Mogale Paul Nkhumishe, SACBC Secretary General Brothg J ude Pieterse, Mrs. Martha Ntuli, from Soweto and AWEPA President Jan Nico Scholten. The delegation to Hungary and Czechoslovakia consisted of Bishop Zithulele Patrick Mvemve, Sr. Margaret Kelly, Secretary for Justice and Peace, Mr. Edcent Williams, President of the Commission for the Laity and Dr. Karel Roskam Of AWEPA.

The SACBC delegations were informed at length about the many ways in which the communist rule has practised oppression. They in turn explained the unmistakable similarities with the suffering experienced under the South African regime, which has practised oppression in the name of Christianity and Christian National Education. This becomes apparent when looking at negation of rights, education controlled by ideology, disruption of family life, migratory labour etc. This somewhat surprised the Eastern Europeans who generally admitted to lacking information on the South African situation.

The difference in assessment of the transition period seemed to be that the Eastern Europeans experience a negative national unity in a common hatred of what they experienced in the recent past, whereas for

instance the Hungarians seem to lack a common binding idea. According to the South Africans, they do indeed share hatred of the oppressive system, but they are also united in the positive desire of achieving a non-racial democratic unitary state.

The South African delegations warned about the danger of recruitment of emigrants to South Africa. European immigration in South Africa is harmful to the employment chances of black South Africans. Moreover, some of these immigrants are recruited in the security services.

As a result of the visits concern will be expressed at the conference of *Justitia et Pax* in Dublin that the government does not take sufficient measures to curb the political violence in the townships. The Czechoslovakian Federal Parliament promised to do the same. The desire was expressed to send delegations to South Africa to personally acquaint themselves about the situation.

It may be concluded that after the downfall of the communist regimes, the peoples of Eastern Europe have turned their back also on the African liberation movements which during that past period had been given generous support. It will take a sustained effort to regain their interest and sympathy for the democratisation and rehabilitation of the nations of Southern Africa. Many people in Eastern Europe would undoubtedly benefit from basic information about the general situation in South Africa and in the other countries of Southern Africa.

N AMIBIA:

AWEPA F ACT-F IN DIN G MISSION

From 26 to 31 October, an AWEPA fact-finding mission Visited Namibia to assess the situation prior to regional and local elections for the second chamber of parliament and to review the development state of the economy, with special attention for the situation of children and women in Namibia. The initial report of the mission was given on 31 October in Windhoek at the conference on tReconciliation and Democratisationl (see below). The full report is available from the AWEPA office, some details are given here.

The delegation consisted of : Mrs. Nora Owen, MP, Ireland; Mr. Hans-Giinter Toetemeyer, MP, Germany; Mr. Brendan Howlin, MP, Ireland; Mrs. Birgitta Husmark, MP, Denmark; Mrs. Katharine Bulbulia, Ireland; and Mr. David Morris, European Parliament member. The programme was coordinated in Namibia by Mrs. Caroline Allison of Oxfam (UK).

A briefing was provided by Dr. Mose Tjitendero, Speaker of the National Assembly, and Prof. Toetemeyer from the Directorate of Elections, as well as representatives from UNICEF and local NGOs.

The elections held on 30 November to 3 December, will result in the formation of the 26-member National Council, with 2 members elected from each of 13 Regional Councils (see map). The National Council has the constitutional role of reviewing and investigating matters related to legislation in the National Assembly.

Registration for the elections was extended until 27 October, and the delegation was able to observe the conclusion of the registration process. The Directorate of Elections was satisfied with the

N amibia,s New Regional Boundaries

Adapted: Fust Delimitation Commission

7

Kunene 44.254 58.500

Omusati 13,637 158,000

Oshana	5,290	159,000
Ohanguena	10,582	178,000
Oshikoto	26,607	176,000
Okavango	43,417	136,000
CAPRIVI	19,532	92,000
Erongo	63,719	98,500
Oljozondjupa	105,327	85,000
Omaheke	84.731	55,600
Khomas	36,804	161,000
Hardap	109.888	80.000
Karas	161,24	93,000
TOTAL	825,118	1 511,600

projected 70070 registration rate. Voter education was said to be needed due to a lack of civic culture in Namibia, and the fact that a democratic culture was lacking at independence and still needs to be built up. The fact-finding mission also received a briefing at the Katutura Women's Centre, chaired by Mrs. Netumbo Ndongue, Namibia's Deputy Foreign Minister and President of the Namibia National Women's Organisation. The delegation traveled east to Gobabis and south to Mariental, meeting Regional Commissioners and women leaders along the way, and visiting community projects.

David Morris (UK) from the European Parliament had a separate programme of meetings in Namibia related to his work areas as member of the Agricultural Committee, as member of the ACP/EC Joint Assembly and as acting Chairman of the Working Group on Fisheries. He reviewed development cooperation and trade in the context of the Lomé Convention. He called for closer cooperation between the EC and Namibian authorities in order to have Lomé resources effectively deployed in support of Namibian social and economic development.

International Conference in Namibia
RECONCILIATION AND DEMOCRATISATION

Together with the Council of Churches in Namibia (CCN) and the African-European Institute, AWEPPA organised a conference in Windhoek, 28-31 October, to explore mechanisms to make reconciliation and democratisation a reality in the 1990s and beyond. The conference was attended by more than 100 participants from some 16 countries in Southern Africa and Europe.

The delegates were welcomed by President Sam Nujoma, and the meeting was opened by Prime Minister of Namibia, Hage Geingob. Reports and sharing of experiences were received from Namibian and visiting parliamentarians, representatives of UNICEF, Councils of Churches and non-governmental organisations.

President Nujoma expressed the need to appreciate the difficulties and pains involved in putting reconciliation and democracy into practice, at the same time to admit in humility the hard fact that the alternatives to reconciliation and democracy are the evils of racial, ethnic, ideological polarization, strife, economic backwardness, national disunity and disintegration! He noted that experiences elsewhere have shown that reconciliation and democracy are only workable when accompanied by political honesty and fair economic distribution. He also thanked AWEPPA for the role it continues to play in solidarity with institutions that help to shape new societies in Southern Africa.

Prime Minister Geingob noted a symbiotic relationship between reconciliation and democratisation: Reconciliation minimizes areas of conflict and therefore brings about peace, and creates a climate where we learn to accept each other as equals. This climate in turn helps promote all the tenets of democratisation. Successes so far in Namibia have enabled a peace dividend to allow the government to direct limited resources into schools, clinics and job creation. He regretted that many still lack an understanding of the need for reconciliation, and called for a redoubling of efforts to educate the people toward building a healthy society at peace with itself.

Dr. John Lamola of the South African Council of Churches warned that reconciliation is also put

forward by unrepentant oppressors to achieve a semblance of change without real political or economic change. He stated that in South Africa today, the words democracy and reconciliation, are clarion calls for continued struggle against apartheid rule, and at the same time, beacons of hope in the midst of the violent conflict in the country. The current violence in South Africa was seen as part of strategy of those who fear democracy and are intent on delaying a political settlement.

Jan Nico Scholten, President of AWEPA, stressed that reconciliation requires a new spirit and a new vision. He mentioned that it was not only necessary for Southern Africa, but also in Europe (e.g. former Yugoslavia), and certainly in the relationship between the North and the South. He argued that the international community has a responsibility to assist Southern African efforts towards reconciliation and democratisation, and pledged that AWEPA would do its part to promote that the international community takes up that responsibility.

At the conclusion of the proceedings a 20-point conference statement was accepted, which included action points for the churches, society and governments in relation to the conference themes. There was a felt need to mobilise and empower the people to be agents for shaping their own destiny, to promote and protect the values and principles of democracy, and to nurture political tolerance and reconciliation on local, regional, national and international levels.