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STATEMENT

by

H.E. Mr. Raif Dizdarevic, Federal Secretary
for Foreign Affairs of the SFR of Yugoslavia,
at the 14th Special Session of the United Nations
General Assembly on Namibia in New York

New York

19 September 1986

Mr. President,

At the outset let me congratulate you on the election to the Presidency of this Special session. The choice of your person is a fitting comment on the dedication of Bangladesh to the principles of the Charter and policy of non-alignment.

I am greatly honoured that Yugoslavia is among the non-aligned countries entrusted to convey the messages and conclusions of the recent Eighth Summit of non-aligned countries in Harare to this Special Session of the General Assembly devoted to the issue of independence of Namibia.

The message of the Harare Non-Aligned Summit is clear and unequivocal: independence for the people of Namibia, immediate and unconditional independence without further delay and implementation of Security Council resolutions 385 and 435 which contain measures and objectives accepted by the entire international community for peaceful solution of this issue.

The message of non-aligned countries from the Summit is unmistakable: in finding the solution to this question they want independence and not domination, equality and not exploitation, cooperation not confrontation. With this aim in mind they are determined to support legitimate aspirations and rights of the Namibian people.

This support is expressly stated in the Declaration condemning the continued illegal occupation of Namibia by the racist regime of South Africa and the use of territory of Namibia for aggression against neighbouring countries in particular Angola. They are requesting an effective isolation of the racist regime by severing all relations with it and by the imposition of comprehensive and mandatory sanctions which will compel it to fully abolish the shameful regime of apartheid.

In the special Appeal for the liberation of Namibia, the Heads of State or Government, inter alia, urged the international community to render its all-round material, political and diplomatic support to the struggle of the Namibian people for their liberation, under the leadership of their sole legitimate representative SWAPO. At the same time, they called upon the United Nations Secretary General to intensify his efforts in Ensuring the implementation of the United Nations decisions and recommended to the international mass media to report objectively about the plight of the Namibian people.

The requests contained in the Declaration and the Appeal reiterate the action-oriented support of non-aligned countries to the just struggle of the Namibian people.

Can the world, great powers and, particularly the Security Council remain passive and indifferent to the terror and unscrupulous exploitation the people of Namibia are exposed to? The treatment of the Namibian people and the vast majority of the population in their own country by South African authorities constitutes the

most flagrant and gross violation of human rights. Is it necessary to recall once again that such developments in Namibia and southern Africa inevitably lead to mass bloodshed and dangerous aggravation of overall international relations.

The hopes of mankind for an early independence of Namibia increased with the adoption of Security Council resolutions 385 and 435 which contain the United Nations Plan for Independence of Namibia. However, eight years have elapsed since the adoption of resolution 435, whereas the implementation of the Plan has not even started. Unfortunately, we are all aware of the reasons why the United Nations decisions remain unimplemented. A country defying the will of the whole international community must not remain unpunished. The United Nations Charter contains explicit provisions, not made use of thus far, on the measures the World (Organization can resort to if world peace is threatened or violated or if acts of aggression occur. All proposals and just demands of the vast majority of the United Nations Member States for sanctions have always had the same outcome in the Security Council - veto of one, two or three permanent members. Thus, the aggressor and oppressor in southern Africa enjoys the protection of some countries which, under the Charter, bear special responsibility for maintaining international peace and security. However, there can be no justification or pretext, linkage or other, for further postponement of the implementation of resolution 435 which is the responsibility of the Security Council.

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Mr. President,

How much longer must the Namibian people suffer and make sacrifices for their freedom? Patience has worn thin. The international community must take now, more than ever before, all available measures in a more concerted and resolute manner to finally ensure the freedom to the Namibian people. All actions taken prior to this Session testify to the fact that the preconditions for attaining independence of Namibia as early as this year have been fulfilled.

This is the request of the Eighth Summit of non-aligned countries. This is, furthermore, the request of a number of other important international meetings devoted to the problem of Namibia. I will only mention the International Conference of Non-governmental Organizations in Brussels and the International Conference for the Immediate Independence of Namibia in Vienna. This has for years been the demand of the broadest democratic public opinion of the world. This Special Session, the third session on Namibia in the history of the United Nations is only a logical outcome of such wide-ranging international action. Let us make it the last.

Mr. President,

All non-aligned countries and the vast majority of others believe that this Special Session must make a decisive step forward in the implementation of resolution 435. The mechanism of the United Nations Plan, accepted by all the parties concerned and the whole international community, must finally be put into motion.

In order to meet this end, it is necessary that this Session vigorously request both South Africa and the countries which bear special responsibility for international peace and security to take immediate measures for the implementation of the United Nations Plan. This is a request made in the name of the fundamental principles of the Charter and of the most essential principles of humanity and justice. If, by adopting the Charter, we all committed ourselves to a world of equitable cooperation; can narrow economic or other interests in southern Africa be more important than the solution of the Namibian problem and the contribution it would make to the improvement of international relations and relaxation of international tensions? These countries should, therefore, be called upon to ensure both within the Security Council and in their policy towards South Africa the immediate implementation of the United Nations Plan. They are capable of doing so and the responsibility rests with them.

This Session should reject once again the attempts of South Africa to impose the so-called internal solution and thus by-pass the provisions of resolution 435. Yugoslavia, as well as other countries, strongly condemned South Africa last year for the establishment of the so-called interim or transitional government. Such attempts are aimed at excluding the sole legitimate representative of the Namibian people, SWAPO, from the process of self-determination and at imposing the puppet regime which would ensure colonial domination of South Africa in Namibia and unhampered exploitation of natural resources of this country in the future.

Mr. President,

For its part, Yugoslavia will strictly respect all the decisions adopted by this Session as it has done in the past and, within its limits, render every assistance and support to SWAPO and the Front-Line States. My country remains prepared to contribute to the establishment of the UNTAG troops for securing the process of independence of Namibia as soon as the mechanism of the United Nations Plan becomes operational. I am convinced that I am expressing the view of all present here in saying that we must not allow Namibia to languish in slavery and exploitation anymore. Its place is here, among us, as a free and independent country. I hope that we shall not have to wait long for that.

As the Appeal from Harare states, the time for Namibian independence is long overdue and any further delay is immoral.

Thank you, Mr. President.