

(Tonband - Abschrift)

PRESS CONFERENCE 30.04.1987, Bonn

NAMIBIA - WORKSHOP, Schloßpark - Hotel:

Statement by Mr. Moses Garoeb, SWAPO - Administrative Secretary

"I would first of all ^{like} to take the opportunity to welcome very authentic and genuine journalists to this press conference.

I suppose that you are very interested to find out what deliberations took place here and also what our talks with the government of the Federal Republic of Germany were like.

Of course I also welcome the usual spies posing as journalists and other agents of South Africa in the FRG if they are here. They always attend press conferences.

I would like to start by saying that first of all this workshop was a total success. I must say it was a success. It was attended by participants from over 16 different organisations and also from the UN - Concil for Namibia as well as a very high - powered delegation from SWAPO.

In the process of deliberations we have made new friends, and at the same time we have recandled old alliances of people here in this country who are committed to the cause of the liberation of Namibia. We deliberated for these last few days on a host of issues pertaining to the liberation of Namibia.

But most specially and I must stress this - we addressed ourselves to the role of the FRG in so far as that liberation is concerned.

The consensus on that particular point is that the FRG is set on a course of total confrontation to SWAPO and by implication of delay of the independence of Namibia.

All who participated here were unanimous in the view that the foreign policy of the present government in Bonn as it affects Namibia is a very dangerous one - very dangerous not only to Namibia but also on South Africa.

As far as this new policy is concerned it only means one thing and that is that strengthens South Africa's presence in Namibia.

This has been confirmed to us for instance, among other things, by the talks we have had with officials of the CDU, the majority party, Herr Kohls party. They have confirmed this to us very very bluntly. We never met a gentleman who is so un-gentleman like Mr. Wegener.. We found him to be absolutely uncouth, lacking diplomatic or civil finesse.

He gives the impression of a total racist, fascist, probably could have been a better deputy to Hitler, he gives the impression of that man.

For all intents and purposes he doesn't care what happens to Namibian Blacks and he told us in very very clear terms what this government intends to do about Namibia.

We looked into the question of the FRG position vis-a-vis Resolution 435 for example. We looked into the question of aid to Namibia what is otherwise called development - aid to Namibia before - something which we object too very strongly as a matter of policy.

We discussed at length the role of the trade union movement here and how they can help, the students and youth. We discussed the role of financial and trade institutions of this country and how they affect our struggle etc.. If I had to catalogue practically everything we would stay here for the whole day.

But the long and the short of the whole thing is that the workshop has been a very successful one.

We have adopted a Programme of Action which clearly stipulates in more than 30 points what the support groups here, the Anti-Apartheid Movement here of the FRG, is going to do to supplement the efforts of SWAPO to liberate Namibia. The action will be here and we hope that even the press will be involved to see to it that this programme is fully implemented. So we are appealing to you not only to give us a sympathetic hearing but also to give sympathetic participation to the Anti-Apartheid Movement of the FRG as they try to implement this programme. Because the objective is a noble one to free the people who are being enslaved and then to free the people who are denied their rights.

Now it is important that this workshop took place here in the FRG for a variety of reasons, perhaps the most important reason being that at one time Germany was our colonizer, from 1884 until 1915.

There are very very emotional ties between what is called South-West Africa, what we do call Namibia, in this country here.

We have a Namibian here, he is a member of SWAPO, he just came to join us for these particular deliberations, just last week, just last Thursday he escaped an assassination attempt, they almost killed him as he was driving, he was coming from a meeting, a trade-union meeting in the African location, in the black location, someone just overtook him and then shot at him. He would probably now be buried. He is a member, full member of SWAPO, he has been a leader of SWAPO for so many years inside the country, in fact we will say good-bye to him in half an hour he's going back, we do not know what will happen to him but he has committed himself like all of us to the course for the liberation of Namibia. So it was also a particular honour to have him here, to participate in these deliberations.

So the emotional tie^{is} there, he and many other Namibians who some of them are here, some of them are sitting, are students - they symbolize that emotional tie.

And even ourselves in some of our wildest imaginations like my grandfather, have a romantic view about these German days, you know, "Deutsche Zeit", they were better than the Boers but of course it's the same colonialism, you know ?

Colonialism is colonialism, whether it is under Germany or under the Boers at the present moment. But that sentimentality is sometimes there. So, if not for anything it is important that the workshop takes place for that historical reason and we hope that from this point on the people of this country will do all in their power to see that certain actions which the government contemplates do not take effects. Now, what are these actions that I am talking about.

Earlier o I said that during our stay here we also had meetings with your government. I will start with the meeting with Mr. Wegener. I must get his name correct. Wegener told us that the present government is going back to a certain course of action in Namibia. They are going to do it whether

SWAPO likes it or not, and by implication and consequences, no matter what happens to the Namibian people. That's the only interpretation that we could reach.

First of all on the question of Resolution 435. He speaks and talks about this - he was very frank, I must congratulate him for that - Resolution 435, as being almost outdated. It has gathered too much dust. It is old! It is not a holy cow.

It can not be implemented as it was conceived at that time, ten years ago, things have changed since then. So there needs to be a rearrangement.

There needs to be an alternative to Resolution 435. And his government is working towards that end.

And what is that end, what are they doing and what will they do to support Resolution 435 - that is pushed aside and an alternative being found.

He says that at the present moment there are certain constitutional processes going on in Namibia. There is an interim government, that government is administering the territory and it needs to be supported.

To that end they are going to give assistance to Namibia. This development assistance involves for instance the expansion of the infrastructures.

Infrastructures in the field of communication both railroad and aviation, particular aviation, it will involve the expansion of the fishing industry, it will involve agricultural projects etc..

They are going to do this because they feel that Resolution 435 is not likely to be implemented now, but they have a mandate from the FRG electorate to do this. And by implication they say they have got to do these things in conjunction with the so-called "interim government" run by the puppets appointed by Pretoria. By implication this means that this is a recognition on the part of the FRG of that so-called "interim government" this right now in Windhoek. And by implication that means that is a rejection, a violation of UN-Resolution 435. This they are going to do whether SWAPO likes it or not; "we are going to do it", "we were given the mandate to do that:" The constitutional process they are going to support.

What is going on at the present moment, that is for instance that the so-called interim government is preparing itself for a unilateral declaration of independence. They have created new ministeries like Ministry of Defense, "National Security" they call it. They have created a Ministry of Foreign Affaires as they call it, of co-operation.

There is a Constitutional Council taking place, drafting a constitution for an independent Namibia, and very prominent personalities from this country are involved in the drafting of that constitution.

Wolfgang Zeidler is one of them. Very prominent personalities from this country are involved in that.

Our people are saying: Oh, it's the same Germans again. That is what some of our people are saying. What are they going to do this time ?

Prof. Zeidler is one of those people who has got a very contemptuous view of the black man, the African. He regards the blackmen as subhuman (not different from Mr. Hitler in this context), he regards us as if we are not human beings and he regards the African as of no consequences in the civilisation of the world, whatever that means.

This is what he said on the 12.-13. of January 1985 when he was adresssing a scientific conference at the European Institute of the University of Saarland: " The average African mass man living ill-bred in the bush has not yet reached the stage of development capable of abstraction. And we want to impose on them our model of statesmanship, which has beeb formed 2000 years, without consideration of the receptivity! That would be the same, as if one fed a three-day-old baby with steak and chips!"

This is what he said about the Blackman. In other words: We cannot conceptualize, we cannot think intelligently, we don't have the capacity to intellectualize concepts. According to him I cannot con-

ceptualize that I am a human being !

So if we like it or not, they want to impose that on us. We cannot, we are not expected to resist.

This same Prof. Zeidler is of course the one who is involved in this constitutional process. Now what is it that we are told by the Bonn government ?

When we met Mr. Schäfer who is the Minister of State in the Foreign Ministry, he told us the opposite; that there is nothing like that whatever you have heard what we are going to do in terms of development aid, this is not true. We raised the question of the dumping of nuclear waste in Namibia. We have information that the FRG wants to dump nuclear waste in Namibia, in the Namibian desert.

The Federal Government has denied that they have such intentions.

But we have so much circumstantial evidence from so many sources that convinces us that again the Germans are planning our extermination.

There was a "Vernichtungsbefehl" by von Trotta during the German colonial time when our people were reduced to almost half their size.

Now we are supposed to be victims of nuclear fall-out. The nuclear waste is going to be dumped there and the consequences of that you can imagine.

We were told by Mr. Schäfer, this is very interesting - I don't know why we were told this - that a Green Minister of the government of Hessen

wanted to have the things dumped in Austria and Austria said no. The Austrian resisted.

If they are doing that to their own cousins what about us ?

Their own cousins, they are speaking the same language, the same culture, everything. What about us far away ? We have had one round with imperial Germany, so the second round is coming. But the government tells us this

is not true. But let me state here that we don't accept it. We do not

accept it and then we condemn this government here, for that action.

As for the objective the governmental set itself I am told that the new Minister for Economic Development Mr. Klein is going to implement some of these decisions. I want to say here, to Mr. Klein, that if he is going to construct certain infrastructures in Namibia, we are going to blow them up. We are going to do certain things to make sure that whatever plans they have they are going to fail.

If they build airports or if they build railroads or if they construct this and that we are going to blow it up. And if they send experts to go and help in the execution of those projects they will pay a high price, believe you me, they will pay a high price.

They might come back from Namibia minus one arm or minus one leg but they might not come back at all.

If they are going to construct fisheries industry we are going to blow it up.

Everything they do there, we can do it better. Any project they got to do with that government, we can do it better.

And we are going to target ourselves specifically to fight this government.

Our friends will fight it here through this Programme of Action and we'll fight them in Namibia.

I also want to tell Mr. Stoltz of the Namibia Information Office that fine you can continue sending German politicians, businessmen and others to visit Namibia, I am told they are sent with their wives for tours to the beautiful places of Namibia.

But from now on they won't come back to come and tell the lies they are telling about Namibia. We will watch them, we are going to monitor them, we have the potential, the capability and the intention to do it.

So far we have not done it, but we will think about all the possibilities because now, by the action that they are intending to do, they have declared war on us.

So let them come to Namibia, they probably come back, but they would not go back again.

And whatever the FRG is going to do to delay our independence, to lengthen our suffering we will fight them and we'll fight them as we are fighting the Boers.

Let Mr. Klein and all of them, Mr. Strauß, let them know about this. Mr. Strauß might now go there, people like Mr. Strauß, we will put them on the government list after Namibia's independence. If they are still alive, definitely we are never going to allow them in.

I spoke about emotional ties. There are German-speaking Namibians who have ties with their relatives here and so on. We have no objections to them coming to see their relatives, innocent people they are just going to see their families.

But those ones who are consciously organized to go and come to reinforce the propaganda here - up to now we have been fighting them only politically.

But now I think there is another form of struggle needed. I think it is about time, really, you know?

Sometimes we feel that we are fighting too much of a civilized, you know, kind of struggle.

Because of the time I do not want to expand any more. The long and the short of it is that we are very very concerned and very very worried about the policy of this government and what its intents to do in Namibia.

And if they continue to execute that programme they can count on SWAPO's reaction and we are going to react very, very effectively.

I do not know how safe we are, some of us, in the FRG. I do not know, but in any case this has been our life.

But we are going to fight them."

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NAMIBIA - WORKSHOP, Schloßpark-Hotel

3. Fragen

Wick: Vielen Dank Moses Garoeb.

Ich möchte nun die Diskussion eröffnen. Könnten Sie sich bitte bei den Fragen jeweils zunächst vorstellen und das Presseorgan, für das Sie schreiben.

- 3.1. Cornelsen, freier Journalist: Ich arbeite für die "Frankfurter Rundschau". Ich habe eine ganze Menge Fragen zu dem Aktionsprogramm. Da steht am Anfang, daß die Bundesrepublik die Verpflichtung habe, die Opfer des Kolonialregimes zu entschädigen. Das hatte ich bisher noch nicht so gelesen oder gehört. Werden da jetzt mehr konkrete, d.h. finanzielle Entschädigungen gefordert oder soll das sozusagen moralisch sein? Ist da an so etwas gedacht?

Wick:

Der adäquate Begriff in der deutschen Sprache würde sein "Wiedergutmachung" und das ist ein weitgehender Begriff, es ist ein moralischer, aber auch ein materieller Begriff; es schließt ein, daß wir unbedingt heute auch konkret nicht nur in der Form von Appellen, nicht nur verbal, Solidarität üben sollen, sondern auch konkret Schlußfolgerungen daraus ziehen, indem wir z.B. die Kraft, die heute gegen Rassismus und Kolonialismus in Namibia kämpft, daß wir diese auch materiell unterstützen. So verstehen wir Wiedergutmachung.

3.2. Cornelsen:

Ich wollte außerdem noch wissen, was konkret das bedeutet, Namibia in das EG-Papier miteinzubeziehen.

Wick:

Dieser Passus ist gestrichen worden. Ich möchte noch einmal darauf hinweisen, daß wir eine ganze Reihe von Vorschlägen leider nicht erarbeiten konnten; das ist mißlich, aber wir konnten es leider nicht ändern. Dies ist ein vorläufiges Aktionsprogramm.

3.3. Lorscheid:

Ich bin ebenfalls freier Journalist, arbeite u.a. für die Tageszeitung, ich hätte gerne etwas Näheres gewußt zu diesem Plan oder den angeblichen Plänen, Atommüll in Namibia zu lagern. Gibt es da wirklich Beweise für, die das als aktuell erscheinen lassen?

Moses Garoeb:

Yes, we have proof to this effect and no one less than a Minister of a so-called transitional government by the name of Janie de Wet made it very, very clear, that Namibia is big enough, sparsely populated, and that in some parts of its desert conditions are there that it would not be dangerous if a portion of Namibia's desert could be used to dump this nuclear waste. De Wet will be the so-called Minister of Agriculture in the present puppet government. He stated

very, very categorically that this is the case and we also know that the so-called interim government will be given four billion Deutsche Mark. Now if they were planning to dump this thing in Austria, I mean, you know when you're doing it to your own cousins next door! we know that there are certain American companies which have been trying to dump this in Africa - they tried it in a country like Sierra Leone. They don't say nuclear waste, some of them, they don't use the word, they say chemical waste, you know, because the moment you're saying nuclear waste your hair will stand up. So you want to cheat me by telling me it's pharmaceutical or chemical waste. Yes that is proved. And it is a very serious matter, we take it very, very seriously what I found out here about my mission. And I have to go to all the SWAPO refugee camps and Anton Lubowski, he was here, who is just going home, he's just going to the airport, he has to go and tell the people at home.

3.4. Lorscheid:

Sie haben eben sehr deutliche Drohungen ausgesprochen gegenüber den Leuten, die im Rahmen der zu erwartenden sogenannten Entwicklungshilfeprogramme nach Namibia reisen werden. Bezieht sich das auch beispielsweise auf Herrn Zeidler?

Moses Garoeb:

If he's going there himself physically - I hope he is not - but I and my organisation take this very very seriously.

Wick:

Wir könnten Ihnen bei Interesse das Zitat von Herrn Zeidler kopieren, so daß Sie es mitnehmen könnten. Gibt es noch Fragen?

3.5. Cornelsen:

Ich wollte noch wissen, warum Sie nur mit dem Herrn Wegener gesprochen haben, es kennt ihn ja niemand? Oder haben Sie mit Abgeordneten der CDU oder irgendwelchen sonstigen Vertretung der Regierung gesprochen?

Moses Garoeb:

We didn't talk to any of the members of parliament, Mr. Wegener is a very, very important - I do disagree with you - person. he is a policy opinion maker for the CDU, you see, he is not in the government, but he is in the party, and that is the party which is in government, he physically himself is not in the government but he is a key political opinion former for that government. And he is telling us on behalf of the government. We didn't need to go to parliamentarians, some of them are nice guys, they like to talk diplomatically but Wegener is a key person in the party that is ruling and in that context he is a key policy maker. So we didn't take him just lightly, it's a very serious matter. We requested for instance to see Minister Klein himself, but he refused, Mr. Klein said "No", we made an official request long before I came here. We made an official request to Mr. Klein: you know the diplomatic way is that he is "not available". We wanted to see Herr Genscher, too, but Herr Genscher, I must say of him, that Herr Genscher, we have seen him so many times, we saw Mr. Schäfer, who is a Minister of State, he is more or less his deputy, Schäfer, yes, Herr Genscher was not available, but for Herr Genscher I can say that he has often seen us. If there is one man in this country over the years who has made some kind of a relationship between SWAPO and this country at governmental level it has been Herr Genscher. He has received the SWAPO-President many times here, but unfortunately I believe, he was busy so that he couldn't see us, but he instructed the second in command to see us.

Wick.:

Manfred Hinz zur Quelle des Zitates von Herrn Zeidler?

3.6. Manfred Hinz:

Das Zitat stammt aus dem Bunch "Verfassungsentwicklung in Südafrika und Namibia", herausgegeben von Professor Rätz, Europainstitut der Universität des Saarlandes, C.F. Müller Verlag, 84 oder 85.

3.7. Lorscheid:

Hat denn Herr Schäfer es vermocht, den Eindruck, den Wegener bei Ihnen hinterlassen hat, zu relativieren, oder haben Sie den Eindruck, daß Wegener - kurz gefaßt - mehr zu sagen hat als Herr Schäfer?

Moses Garoeb:

There are two versions, one of them is not true, I don't want to say which one is not true. We have drawn our conclusions. Minister of State Schäfer denied everything. Wegener confirmed everything. Minister of State Schäfer said, that he was telling the position of this government. Mr. Wegener said I'm telling you the position of this government. Somebody is not telling the truth. But we have been long enough around to know who is not telling the truth, we have drawn our conclusions.

Wick.

Gibt es noch Fragen?

3.8. Moses Garoeb:

By the way there is an article about the nuclear waste, a very reasonable one, it's in Afrikaans:

It means South West Africa can get a lot of money out of waste, nuclear waste, it is in Africaans language, but there is again another minister Dirk Mudge, it is a paper called "The Republican", it's owned by the DTA, by Dirk Mudge; Dirk Mudge is the Minister of Finance, in the present so-called government. This is what he says in this paper, this was last week.

3.9. Wick:

Bei Interesse können wir auch das Papier noch kopieren.

Gibt es noch Fragen?

Wenn das nicht der Fall ist, dann danke ich Ihnen recht herzlich, ich hoffe, daß Sie berichten werden und Auf Wiedersehen bis zum nächsten mal.

Moses Garoeb:

Thank you very much.