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DEUTSCHE DEMOKRATISCHE REPUBLIK

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GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

Permanent Mission
to the United Nations

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

S t a t e m e n t

by the Minister of Foreign Affairs
of the German Democratic Republic,

Mr. Oskar Fischer

at the Fourteenth Special Session
of the United Nations General Assembly
on the question of Namibia

New York, 19 September 1986

Mr. President,

May I offer you, a representative of a friendly non-aligned country, my warm congratulation on your election. It is my privilege to convey to you best greetings and wishes from Erich H6necker, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany and Chairman of the Council of State of the German Democratic Republic, who, in his message to this Special Session, has expressed his hope that it will provide a forceful impetus for Namibia's independence which must be obtained now.

Distinguished delegates,

The unresolved question of Namibia is an essential element of the explosive situation in southern Africa. The causes which led to the termination of South Africa's Mandate over the Territory 20 years ago are not removed - the situation has even worsened. The colonial occupation of that country by the Republic of South Africa, the brutal oppression of the Namibian people, including the application of the apartheid laws, the plundering of its natural and human resources for greed for profit by the colonial power and by the 335 transnational corporations operating in Namibia, in a word, the continued existence of colonialism

in its most sinister manifestations cannot but challenge the international community of nations. The territory of Namibia has been abused by the Republic of South Africa as a springboard for constant acts of aggression against the People's Republic of Angola and other neighbouring African sovereign States. South Africa is thus threatening world peace and international security. This requires determined action by the international community, in particular by the United Nations Organization.

The road travelled since the foundation of the World organization, though sometimes on stony ground, was one of success. The great triumph of the peoples' struggle for liberation gives us confidence that Namibia will gain its independence, too.

The Republic of South Africa is the main obstacle in the way to that goal. Since it receives political, economic and military backing from some States which are known to this Assembly, it can again and again challenge world public opinion. That aid is manifest in the activities of well over 3,000 corporations operating in South Africa, in credits to the tune of billions, in capital investments, the supply of most advanced technology, including nuclear equipment, in the

circumvention of the arms embargo, and last but not least, in the repeated abuse of the veto in the Security Council in order to prevent the adoption of sanctions against the aggressor as provided for in the United Nations Charter. Comprehensive sanctions, observed by all States, would politically isolate the Pretoria regime, considerably weaken its economy, and stop the transnational corporations' backing for the racists.

Never before have so many States, governments, organizations and individual personalities called for sanctions against the regime of apartheid.

Just as the UN World Conference on Sanctions against Racist South Africa in Paris and the Vienna World Conference on Namibia, the Eighth summit Conference of the non-aligned movement and the twenty-second session of the Organization of African Unity insisted on determined action against Pretoria. The overwhelming majority of nations are unanimous in their view that not conciliatory appeals, but only international pressure can, and therefore must, be brought to bear on the South African minority regime to force it to abandon its policies of State terrorism and racism. The German Democratic Republic wholeheartedly endorses the view of the newly elected chairman of the Organization of African Unity, Denis Sassou-Nguesso, that not words, but only deeds will defeat the racists in South Africa. Those who so far have hindered the

Security Council to adopt corresponding decisions, obviously place their stake in the present state of affairs before the right of peoples to independence and self-determination.

The Vienna Conference on Namibia called the policy of "constructive engagement" and western collaboration with Pretoria an obstacle on Namibia's road to independence. This view, Mr. President, is right.

Constructive, flexible and conducive to a swift settlement of the conflict are the proposals of the People's Republic of Angola, the group of the front-line States, and the attitude of SWAPO. They are highly commended by international public opinion. The socialist, the non-aligned and an ever increasing number of other States effectively support this consistent approach designed to remove that focus of crisis.

It is now imperative:

- to end all obstructionist policies so that the United Nations can fully meet its responsibility for the settlement of the question of Namibia;
- to discontinue forthwith all collaboration with the apartheid regime as well as aid and support for subversive bandits;

- that the United Nations Security Council impose comprehensive and binding sanctions against the racist regime in South Africa, and that it determinedly enforce its decisions;
- strictly to comply with, and verify, the sanctions adopted, in particular the arms embargo;
- and to give all-round support to the front-line States and SWAPO in their just struggle for peace, independence and stability.

Mr. President,

An heir to the great traditions of German revolutionary working-class struggles against colonial politics and colonial exploitation, the German Democratic Republic stands side by side with the peoples in the south of the African continent which are fighting a battle for freedom, peace and sovereignty. Opposition to colonialism, racism and apartheid has been an essential element of policy for the socialist German State ever since its inception. And this is one reason why SWAPO has an official mission in the GDR.

The German Democratic Republic most strongly condemns the regime of apartheid because it is inhuman and a menace to peace. My country shares the view that apartheid--that

shame of the century--needs to be removed rather than reformed. We speak out for the unconditional implementation of the United Nations decisions on Namibia in their entirety and have stated our readiness to cooperate actively in the practical implementation of the United Nations Plan for Namibia. For many years the GDR has accorded diverse and extensive assistance to the national liberation movements and to the peoples of South Africa and Namibia whom they represent. This involves, in particular, humanitarian aid for Namibian refugees and for persons having fled from persecution by the racist regime in South Africa, medical care for wounded freedom fighters, vocational and professional education of personnel, and other services. The German Democratic Republic sees political, moral, material and humanitarian assistance to the peoples of southern Africa and to their liberation movements as a concrete contribution to peace, security, cooperation and development in the region.

Especially in this year, the International Year of Peace, all are called upon to redouble their efforts so that independence for Namibia will be achieved without any further delay or reservations, and a climate of enduring security will be established in southern Africa. What matters is a life in happiness for all peoples.