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SWAPO PRESS STATEMENT ON THE 19TH
ANNIVERSARY OF THE LAUNCHING OF THE
ARMED STRUGGLE

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SWAPO PRESS STATEMENT ON THE 19TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LAUNCHING
OF THE ARMED STRUGGLE

On Monday the 26 of August, 1985, all Namibian patriots under the leadership of SWAPO will commemorate the 19th Anniversary of the launching of the Armed Liberation struggle now ~~waging~~ ^{waging} inside Namibia. The occasion will also be commemorated by friendly and peace loving democratic forces the world over in solidarity with the just cause of the Namibian people.

Nineteen (19) years ago SWAPO leadership made the historic and correct decision of changing the strategy of liberating the country from the apartheid repressive colonial rule by shifting from the politics of reliance on protest, boycott and petitioning to United Nations organizations, to the politics of revolutionary ~~armed struggle~~ ^{armed struggle} ~~violence~~ with the same objective of achieving the cherished goal, which ^{is} genuine national independence and social progress.

Thus on August 26, 1966 an advanced unit of the then emerging People's Liberation Army of Namibia (PLAN) SWAPO's military wing opened fire on enemy military installations at Onghulumbashe, north western Namibia, signalling to Pretoria the beginning of a new stage in the struggle for the liberation of the country.

The correctness of the decision of SWAPO leadership to embark upon the path of violence, which was taken after a thorough and critical analysis of the concrete political situation inside the country and on the international arena, can be testified by the very fact that today 19 years after, and despite mounting severe losses in human lives and a heavy financial burden the apartheid regime is paying for its illegal occupation of our country it is still persisting in denying the Namibian people their inalienable right for self-determination and national independence, through the most cruel use of armed force. The installation in Windhoek last June of a puppet administration, tightly controlled by Pretoria called the interim government of "national unity",

which was followed by mass arrests, detentions and brutal murders by the regime's murder squad, shows nothing else but Pretoria's utter contempt to the rightful demands of the Namibian people for their most fundamental right as a people and total disregard to the international community which also demand independence through a democratic process.

The past 19 years have witnessed a steady and rapid qualitative and quantitative growth of the People's Liberation Army of Namibia (PLAN) which has been able to tie down well over hundred ^(1,000) thousand / occupationist troops. Today PLAN is a formidable battle tested army which the Pretoria fascists will have to live with as a matter of historical reality.

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During the ~~cause~~ of the first half of 1985 alone, the enemy has sustained the loss of 356 soldiers killed, 367 wounded, 52 military vehicles completely destroyed, most of them of the type of Casspir and Buffalo, eleven military bases attacked and destroyed and 50 telephone poles destroyed, ^{seriously} / disrupting enemy communications. ^(3,000)
In addition our sabotage units have carried out over three thousand / ~~acts~~ of sabotage throughout the country. Rail and road communications have constantly been disrupted. Our military activities have forced the enemy to retreat to ~~44~~ bases around the towns leaving the countryside in our control in certain areas.

In the north, northwest, northeast and centre north, for instance, where the most intense confrontation is taking place the enemy has been forced to concentrate its occupationist forces around the towns of Ruacana, Oshakati, Ondangwa, Rundu, Tsumeb, Grootfontein, Otavi, Outjo and Otjiwarongo. These are precolonimantly farming areas from where the white colonial settlers are ~~fl~~eing in ever increasing numbers to South Africa and western Europe because of insecurity, contributing further to the ever declining economy.

The apartheid regime is currently spending around eight hundred million US/^{dollars} a year for its occupying forces. With the installation of the puppet Administration, there is no doubt that this figure will swell, because the only way to maintain puppets as "ministers" is to pay them fat salaries.

In commemorating the 19th Anniversary of our heroic and glorious Armed Struggle, SWAPO pledges to rededicate its efforts and energy to raise to ever higher heights the price to Pretoria's continued occupation of our country, particularly through the intensification of the Armed Liberation Struggle. We shall at the same time intensify our political and diplomatic activities to ensure the unity of purpose of our people and the further isolation of this horrendous regime.

We shall continue to mobilise our people to rally around SWAPO and take up arms in order to speed up the process of total liberation of our country. ^{we} SWAPO also wishes to call upon the international community, particularly the democratic and peace loving countries, organizations and individuals to continue to render their material, political, diplomatic and moral support to the exploited but fighting Namibian people through their vanguard movement SWAPO.

SWAPO vehemently condemns the racist regime and her imperialist backers, particularly the Reagan Administration for continuing to deny the Namibian people their legitimate right to national independence and social justice.

Finally, SWAPO would like to express thanks to the MPLA Party of Labour, the Government and indeed the fraternal Angolan people for the concrete material assistance, political and diplomatic support which they have rendered to our liberation struggle.

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We also express our sincere gratitude to the Frontline States, the OAU, the Non-Aligned countries, the Socialist Community of Nations, the Nordic countries and the Netherlands for their material, diplomatic, moral and humanitarian assistance they have extended to the Namibian people through SWAPO, which has enable us to carry out our just liberation struggle. SWAPO wants to sound a warning to the Pretoria racists and the Reagan Administration and make it categorically clear that in the absence of a genuine negotiated settlement based on the already agreed upon formula - security council resolution 435 - we shall stay the course of revolutionary violence. Our bombs will continue to blast, our machine guns, rockets, missiles, pistols etc. will continue to be fire and Namibia will soon be turned into a hotter spot for the white colonial settlers and their repressive soldiery.

THE STRUGGLE CONTINUES
VICTORY IS CERTAIN

LUANDA

23rd August, 1985