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September 5, 1989

Peter Muhlangu,
Chief Representative,
African National Congress,
P.O.Box 302,
Adelaide Postal Station,
Toronto, Ontario,
M5C 2J4

Dear Mr. Muhlangu:

As you know, a group of Canadian NGO's have been undertaking a variety of activities relating to the transition process in Namibia, including the organization of observer teams.

As part of this process, these groups are holding a National Roundtable on Namibia, to be held in Ottawa at the House of Commons on September 29 and 30, 1989.

We would like to invite you to participate in the Roundtable on Namibia.

The Roundtable will provide an update on the independence process in Namibia to date, but more importantly, look ahead to the prospects, problems, and needs in post-independence Namibia, and the role that Canadians can play in that process.

The dates of the Roundtable have been set at the convenience of our invited Namibian guests, whom we feel are critical for the relevance and success of the Roundtable. These guests include Dr. Libertine Amathila, a prominent physician and health administrator in Namibia; Mr. Joshua Hoebe, the Director of the Namibia Literacy Programme; and Ms. Clara Bohitile, an Education Coordinator with the Council of Churches of Namibia.

The programme will begin on the evening of Friday September 29 at 7:30 p.m. We have invited the Rt. Hon. Joseph Clark, Secretary of State for External Affairs, one of the prominent Namibians, Dr. Samir Amin, the prominent African academic, and Dr. Meyer Brownstone, chairperson of OXFAM Canada and the official head of the NGO Observer Team to Namibia.

The following day, Sept. 30, will concentrate on development needs in Namibia, and Canadian involvement in immediate and post-independence development, with

A joint project administered by Oxfam-Canada and WUSC


concentration on the health and education sectors.

There will be a registration fee of \$20.00 for an individual. This fee will cover all your reports, materials and lunch.

If you have any questions or require further information, please contact me at: 613-725-3121 ext. 191.

We anticipate a lively and useful discussion and hope you will seriously consider attending.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Gillian Brewin', written in dark ink.

Gillian Brewin,
Roundtable Coordinator.

Enclosure

The Birth Of a Nation

Supporting the Peace Process in Namibia

National Roundtable

Introduction:

Namibia is the last colony in Africa. Independence for Namibia will not only free the energies and ambitions of the Namibian people, it will also change the overall situation and the relation of forces in Southern Africa.

The Namibian people and their supporters are committed to ensuring the success of a democratic process during and after the transition to independence. South Africa, which has occupied Namibia for 70 years, is committed to trying to control the election process and ensuring its control of the economy and destabilization if necessary, after independence.

Namibia's independence is a crucial step in the fight against South African aggression for the region, and the repression of Apartheid at home. The capacity of the Front-Line states, including newly independent Namibia, to withstand economic dependency and destabilization from South Africa is crucial.

For us, the question is how to increase qualitatively and quantitatively our support for the development of a new Southern Africa based on peace and social justice. Canada is committed to Namibia's independence. Canada is intimately involved with Namibia's transition through a seat on the UN Security Council and the contribution of troops and election observers to the UN forces.

The concern of Canadians for peace and justice in Southern Africa, and the special involvement of Canada in Namibia has prompted an OXFAM-Canada, the United Church and the World University Service of Canada (WUSC), under the auspices of the Canadian Council for International Cooperation (CCIC), and with the support of Partnership Africa Canada (PAC) to organize a large-scale programme to foster awareness of Namibia among Canadians and to strengthen links between Canadian NGOs and their Namibian partners.

Components of the projects include: sending 20 Canadian election observers to Namibia between July and November; information distribution on Namibia; workshops and tours on the Namibian elections and post independence development; and the production of electronic media to provide greater understanding of the region and recent events.

The Canadian National Roundtable

The Canadian roundtable is being organized with our Namibian partners to inform and mobilize Canadians in preparation for Namibia's independence.

Two workshops are being held in Windhoek, Namibia at the end of August and early September to hear from Namibians from the grassroots organizations and in the development movements, particularly education and health. The workshops will provide documentation for discussion at the Canadian Roundtable.

The Canadian Roundtable is being organized by WUSC and OXFAM-Canada

Objectives:

- To provide up to date information on the current prospects for free and fair elections in Namibia in November.
- To provide Namibians an opportunity to express the priorities of an independent government.
- To examine the specific issues of health and education in Namibia - needs and solutions.
- To consider how Canada, both NGO's and government, can contribute to the independence process and development in the future Namibia.

Participants:

Participants will be invited from development related NGOs, churches, labour organizations, education and academic institutions, health sector, and the anti-Apartheid Network, as well as the Canadian Government and Parliament. The numbers will be limited to permit discussion and participation.

For more information please contact:

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