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S. Anura



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

25 November 1980

*For  
P. Anura*  
*[Signature]*

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*Bonnie Anura*

*25/11*

*Dear Michael,*

Namibia

You asked for a situation report.

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The UN Secretary-General issued his report on the UN Mission to Pretoria (20-25 October) and subsequent consultations on 24 November immediately after it had become apparent that South Africa and all the Front Line Presidents and SWAPO could live with it. We had worked closely with Brian Urquhart (Under Secretary-General) over its drafting. The interventions of the Prime Minister and the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary with Pik Botha and our subsequent representations, and action by the Five in Front Line capitals, clearly helped to secure this promising outcome. I enclose a note summarising the main points of the report.

In the short term we are working to avoid a General Assembly debate which would give ill-disposed delegations a field day and sow further confusion and bitterness, accentuated by the certain rebuff of a possible South African request to speak and a demand by Mudge of the DTA for equal participation. There is no way in which the Five could enforce their view that all parties should be heard: if the debate goes ahead we hope that the Five will distance themselves from it.

In the longer term we shall try to make the best possible use of the interval between now and the Pre-Implementation Meeting to prepare the discussion and influence all parties to come to it in a positive spirit. The principal danger is that South Africa will play for still more time in the hope that the new US Administration will cause a fundamental reorientation of Western policy. There are also several contentious issues which will have to be solved at some stage and

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which may dog the meeting. These include the status and powers of the so-called Council of Ministers (drawn from DTA and led by Mudge) during the transition, and arrangements for demobilising locally raised security forces. The main business of the meeting will be to create a greater measure of mutual trust and thus induce all parties to take the plunge, and confirm the date for implementation.

*yours ever*  
*Roderic Lyne*

(R M J Lyne)  
Private Secretary

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NAMIBIA: SUMMARY OF CONCLUDING PASSAGES OF SECRETARY-GENERAL'S REPORT OF 24 NOVEMBER

1. Discussion of mutual trust should not occasion further delay.
2. We have reached a decisive phase. All concerned should move forward boldly and in good faith.
3. The Five have pledged support for course proposed and for implementation in March 1981 and will continue to use their good offices to that end.
4. One of the main obstacles is acute mutual distrust. South Africa informed UN Mission that if this obstacle could be overcome, end 1981 would be a realistic target date for independence.
5. Meeting under the auspices of the Secretary-General could facilitate agreement. There have recently been a number of initiatives for such a meeting based on the UN Plan and other practical proposals. A meeting would discuss relevant aspects of implementation to secure cooperation of all concerned. Under the UN Plan, drawing up a constitution is the function of the Constituent Assembly chosen at the elections.
6. Meeting to be held in the context of an agreed timeframe with a view to the parties themselves assisting in resolving difficulties, South Africa having reaffirmed its continuing role as the interlocutor under Resolution 435.
7. March 1981 proposed for implementation in the expectation that the problem of confidence can be overcome by holding a meeting and subject to a satisfactory arrangements on composition of military component of the UN force.
8. Meeting to be held under UN Chairmanship 7-14 January. [Venue still to be decided - Maputo likely.] Participation will be on the basis of formula agreed in earlier SWAPO/Angola/South Africa discussions. South

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Africa and SWAPO have been approached about composition of their delegations [ie internal parties regarded by Front Line and SWAPO as within South African delegation; but by South Africa as attending in their own right and on equal footing with SWAPO].

9. Front Line States, Nigeria, OAU and Five to send observers.

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