

[NAMIBIA

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~~PS/US~~ Sir J. Lealey

SIR L. ALLINSON

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FM CAPE TOWN EMBASSY 221055Z MAY 82

TO IMMEDIATE F C O

TELEGRAM NUMBER 353 OF 22 MAY

INFO IMMEDIATE WASHINGTON

INFO ROUTINE URMIS NEW YORK LUANDA GABORONE LUSAKA HARARE MAPUTO

DAR ES SALAAM LAGOS NAIROBI PARIS BONN AND OTTAWA

WASHINGTON TELNO 1853 TO FCO: NAMIBIA

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF ARGUS REPORT OF 21 MAY.

BEGINS

SOUTH AFRICA HAS SURPRISED — AND DELIGHTED — THE WESTERN FIVE NEGOTIATORS BY VIRTUALLY IMMEDIATELY ACCEPTING PHASE TWO OF THE SWA/NAMIBIA SETTLEMENT PLAN WITHOUT ANY FUSS.

EVEN THE ISSUE OF UNITED NATIONS IMPARTIALITY, SOMETHING SOUTH AFRICA HAS SHOWN STRONG FEELINGS ABOUT, SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN SOLVED SATISFACTORILY.

THERE IS EVERY INDICATION THAT THE COUNTDOWN TOWARDS AN ELECTION
COULD BEGIN AS EARLY AS JULY THIS YEAR.

OFFICIALLY, THE SECOND PHASE OF THE WESTERN PLAN HAS NOT YET
BEEN PRESENTED TO SOUTH AFRICA AND WILL THEN AWAIT A REPLY, BUT
MOST DIPLOMATS KNOW WHAT THE ANSWER IS GOING TO BE.

MUCH OF THE CREDIT FOR THE EASY TRANSITION FOR PHASE TWO
THROUGH THE SOUTH AFRICAN SIDE COULD BE GIVEN TO DR KENNETH KAUNDA
OF ZAMBIA, WHO ASKED TO MEET MR P V BOTHA SO AS TO SORT OUT THE
SWA/NAMIBIA ISSUE.

IT IS BELIEVED THAT IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PLAN WILL GO HAND IN
HAND WITH THE WITHDRAWAL OF CUBAN TROOPS FROM ANGOLA, AFTER WHICH
AMERICA MIGHT GRANT DIPLOMATIC RECOGNITION TO LUANDA.

WHILE SOUTH AFRICA HAS ACCEPTED VIRTUALLY ALL OF PHASE
TWO, THERE MIGHT STILL BE SOME QUIBBLING ABOUT THE SIZE OF THE
UNITED NATIONS PEACE-KEEPING FORCE.

SOUTH AFRICA APPEARS READY TO ACCEPT A FORCE OF 6,000, WHILE THE
NUMBER BEING SUGGESTED MAY BE 7,000.

ONCE PHASE TWO, WHICH DEALS WITH THE SIZE OF THE UN FORCE, THE
IMPARTIALITY OF THE UN AND THE COMPOSITION OF THE FORCE, HAS
BEEN ACCEPTED BY BOTH SIDES. PHASE THREE - IMPLEMENTATION - CAN
IN THEORY BEGIN.

HOWEVER PHASE ONE HAS NOT BEEN AGREED UPON YET AS SWAPO HAS
REJECTED BOTH ALTERNATE VOTING PROCEDURES PUT FORWARD BY THE FIVE.

ENDS

FERGUSSON

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