

STATEMENT BY THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

In the light of press reports that Swapo has offered to enter into a ceasefire agreement with the Republic of South Africa, the South African Government would like to point out that all the parties of South West Africa, including Swapo, are free to participate peacefully in the constitutional process. It is not necessary for the South African Government to enter into a ceasefire agreement with any of the parties of South West Africa since the South African Government has not declared war against any party in the Territory but acts in a protective capacity to maintain peace in the Territory so that a political solution may be found and implemented.

The search for a peaceful solution of the problems of the region is clearly apparent from the agreement which was recently reached with Angola. Although tension in the region has been reduced the South African Government is convinced that real peace in the region will only be achieved if all those involved show the will to have peace.

The time has come for the leaders of Southern Africa to resolve their differences themselves. In this spirit the South African Government is willing to participate without any conditions, except the realisation of peace, in a conference of all those involved in the current conflict in SWA/Angola, i.e. the South Africa Government, MPLA-government, Unita, the Multi Party Conference of South West Africa and Swapo. Should this offer be accepted those involved can agree on a chairman, date and venue for such a conference but the South African Government would prefer that such a conference be held in an African country.

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CAPE TOWN

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