

bia, 23-30 March) in which he proposed that an emergency programme be set up for concerted bilateral and multilateral assistance to the front-line States to counter South Africa's economic destabilization, as well as to reduce their dependence on South Africa.⁽²⁾ In that connection, he emphasized the importance of the Action for Resisting Invasion, Colonialism and Apartheid (AFRICA) Fund of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries in providing support to the national liberation movements and the front-line States.

Action by the Committee on colonial countries. The Committee on colonial countries, in August,⁽³⁾ urged the United Nations system to extend, as a matter of priority, substantial material assistance to the front-line States to enable them to support more effectively the struggle of the people of Namibia for freedom and independence and to resist the violation of their territorial integrity. It welcomed the establishment of the AFRICA Fund and invited United Nations organizations and agencies to co-operate with the Fund in providing emergency assistance to the front-line States and national liberation movements.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

The General Assembly dealt with South Africa's relations with the front-line States in several 1988 resolutions. In resolution 43/50 A, it urged countries to contribute generously to the AFRICA Fund and appealed to all States, intergovernmental organizations and NGOs to step up material, financial and other forms of support to the front-line and other neighbouring independent States. Similar calls were made in resolution 43/26 A, when the Assembly condemned South Africa for using Namibia as a springboard for armed invasions, subversion, destabilization and aggression against neighbouring African States, particularly Angola. The Assembly, in resolution 43/116, reiterated its appreciation to the Secretary-General for his efforts on behalf of the international community to organize and mobilize special programmes of economic assistance to the front-line and other neighbouring States to help them withstand the effects of South Africa's aggression and destabilization. It called on the international community to provide increased assistance to southern African countries to help them strengthen their capacity to provide for the care of refugees, returnees and displaced persons in their countries.

In resolution 43/209, the Assembly, reaffirming the importance of close co-operation between the United Nations and the front-line States, strongly urged the international community to provide the assistance necessary to enhance the capacity of those States to withstand the effects of economic measures taken by South Africa, or by the international community against South Africa.

It also appealed for the support of national and collective emergency programmes prepared by the front-line States and other bordering States.

Situation in Angola

UN verification mission

By letters of 17 December, Angola⁽⁴⁾ and Cuba⁽⁵⁾ informed the Secretary-General that, considering the fact that South Africa had formally undertaken to accept the implementation of the 1978 Security Council resolution on Namibia⁽⁶⁾ with effect from 1 April 1989, it was their intention to sign, on 22 December, an agreement providing for the redeployment to the north and the withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola, in accordance with a timetable arrived at by the two countries. As the agreement also provided for verification by the United Nations, Angola and Cuba accordingly asked the Secretary-General to take the necessary steps to recommend to the Security Council that a group of United Nations military observers be set up to carry out that mandate, in conformity with the agreements the two countries had already reached with the Secretariat.

In order to help the Security Council in its consideration of the request, the Secretary-General, on 17 December, submitted a report⁽⁷⁾ concerning the proposed arrangements for the operation of such an observer mission. According to the report, the bilateral agreement provided that the withdrawal of Cuban troops would begin on 1 April 1989 ("D-Day") and would be completed within 27 months. Angola and Cuba had informed the Secretary-General that 3,000 troops would be withdrawn before 1 April. The duration of the observer mission would be approximately 31 months, starting seven days before the beginning of the Cuban troop withdrawal and ending one month after its completion.

The observer group, UNAVEM, would be under the command of a Chief Military Observer who would be responsible to the Secretary-General, who in turn would report to the Security Council. As for the strength of the mission, the Secretary-General estimated that 70 military observers and about 20 civilian support personnel would be needed. An advance party of approximately 30 observers would be deployed on or about 3 January 1989, while the remaining 40 would be deployed on or about 20 March. The Secretary-General estimated that the cost of the full 31-month period of UNAVEM would total approximately \$20.4 million, of which \$9.8 million would be required during 1989.

Following approval by the Council of the proposed arrangements for an observer mission, the Secretary-General, by a letter of 22 December,⁽⁸⁾ reported that on the same date a tripartite agree-