

Nigeria, Somalia and the United Republic of Tanzania—raised the question of the Namibian resistance and the African freedom fighters. They held that since South Africa continued to occupy Namibia, its population had no choice but to resort to armed struggle. India felt that the Council should declare that the struggle for liberation from colonialism and against a racist, minority régime was legitimate.

On 8 October 1971, Burundi, Sierra Leone, Somalia and the Syrian Arab Republic introduced a draft resolution by which the Council would, among other things, condemn the violations of the sovereignty, air space and territorial integrity of Zambia by South Africa, and call upon South Africa to respect fully the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Zambia and to desist forthwith from any violation thereof.

On 12 October, the representative of Somalia introduced a revised version of the draft—co-sponsored by Burundi and Sierra Leone—which, he said, took into account the various positions of Council members. This text was adopted unanimously on the same date as resolution 300(1971).

By this resolution, the Council (a) bearing in mind that all Member States must refrain in their relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State, (b) conscious that the Council had the responsibility to take efficient collective measures to prevent and eliminate threats to peace and security, and (c) concerned at the situation on the Zambia-Namibia border, in the vicinity of the Caprivi Strip, took the following action.

It (1) reiterated that any violation of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of a Member State was contrary to the United Nations Charter; (2) called upon South Africa to respect fully the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Zambia; and (3) declared that, in the event that South

Africa violated the sovereignty or territorial integrity of Zambia, the Security Council would meet again to examine the situation further in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter.

Following adoption of the resolution, the United States representative said that the statements made to the Council by Zambia and South Africa were not fully consistent and had left some questions open. However, it was clear that there was concern that similar incidents might occur in future. The United States had supported the resolution in the hope that it would encourage the parties concerned to exercise restraint. The representative also reaffirmed United States support for the General Assembly's decision of 27 October 1966²⁶ as well as the advisory opinion by the International Court of Justice that South Africa's presence in Namibia was illegal.

Italy noted that although it had voted for the resolution because of the tension prevailing in the area, it would have preferred a more concise, sober resolution adhering more closely to the information provided to the Council.

France felt that the resolution was firm and measured and had achieved the desired objective: the Council had stressed its determination to preserve the sovereignty and territorial integrity of a Member State, which constituted an assurance for Zambia.

The representative of Zambia said that in giving South Africa such a mild reprimand, the Security Council had set a dangerous precedent which would not give comfort to Zambia or to other small and weak States in Africa and the rest of the world. However, Zambia welcomed the resolution in a spirit of compromise as the minimum action the Council could take under the circumstances.

²⁶ See Y.U.N., 1966, pp. 605-6, text of resolution 2145(XXI).

DOCUMENTARY REFERENCES

Security Council, meetings 1590-1592.

S/10352. Letter of 6 October 1971 from Zambia (request to convene Council).

S/10357-S/10361, S/10363. Letters of 7 and 8 October 1971 from United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia, Nigeria, South Africa, Kenya, Guinea (requests to participate in Council's discussion).

S/10364. Letter of 7 October 1971 from Algeria, Barbados, Botswana, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Dahomey, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guyana, India, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Kenya, Liberia, Libyan Arab Republic, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Upper Volta, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia.

S/10365. Burundi, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Syrian Arab Republic: draft resolution.

S/10365/Rev.1. Burundi, Sierra Leone, Somalia: revised draft resolution.

S/10367. Letter of 8 October 1971 from Yugoslavia (request to participate in Council's discussion).

S/10368. Letter of 11 October from Lesotho (supporting request to convene Council).

S/10370, S/10371. Letters of 11 October 1971 from India and Pakistan (request to participate in Council's discussion).

RESOLUTION 300(1971), as submitted by 3 powers, S/10365/Rev.1, adopted unanimously by Council on 12 October 1971, meeting 1592.

The Security Council,

Having received the letter of the Permanent Representative of Zambia contained in document S/10352 and also the letter from forty-seven Member States contained in document S/10364,

Taking note of the statement of the Permanent Representative of Zambia concerning violations of the sovereignty, air space and territorial integrity of Zambia by South Africa,

Taking note of the statement of the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of South Africa,