

the Committee called for urgent action on Angola's request to put an end to the successive acts of aggression against it and neutralize the imminent and large-scale invasion prepared by South Africa. The Acting President of the United Nations Council for Namibia, by a letter of 28 August,<sup>(18)</sup> transmitted to the Secretary-General a statement of the same date condemning the invasion of Angola and calling for the strongest measures against South Africa by the international community and by the Security Council in particular.

By a letter of 27 August,<sup>(27)</sup> South Africa transmitted a letter of the same date from its Minister for Foreign Affairs and Information, stating that premeditated attacks conducted from across the border by the South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO) had escalated to new levels of intensity during the previous weeks. SWAPO sought to build a terrorist force in neighbouring countries, dependent on the USSR and Cuba for its philosophy, training, armament and supplies. In countering the incursions, South Africa had limited its response to SWAPO targets. It invited Security Council representatives to visit Namibia to observe the situation.

**OTHER ACTION.** The United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy (p. 689), by a resolution of 21 August,<sup>(32)</sup> deplored all South African military activities in Namibia and Angola, which were having serious ecological consequences, thereby limiting the future capacity to develop new and renewable energy sources. The Conference demanded the complete and unconditional withdrawal of all South African troops from the occupied Angolan provinces of Cunene and Kuando Kubango.

**SECURITY COUNCIL CONSIDERATION.** The Security Council met between 28 and 31 August to discuss Angola's complaint of an armed attack by South Africa. On 31 August, a draft resolution<sup>(1)</sup> sponsored and twice revised by Mexico, the Niger, Panama, the Philippines, Tunisia and Uganda received 13 votes in favour but was not adopted because of the negative vote of a permanent member; there was one abstention.

This draft would have had the Council strongly condemn South Africa for its premeditated, unprovoked and persistent armed invasion perpetrated against Angola and its utilization of the illegally occupied Territory of Namibia as a springboard for armed invasions and destabilization of Angola. The Council would have declared the armed invasion a flagrant violation of Angola's sovereignty and territorial integrity, and a danger to international peace and security. It would have demanded the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of all South African troops from Angola; strongly condemned South

Africa's use of mercenaries against Angola; and condemned the aggressive campaign and other hostile activities aimed at destabilizing Angola.

The Council would have urged all Member States urgently to extend material assistance to Angola in order to enable it to defend its independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity, and called on all States to implement fully the arms embargo imposed against South Africa in 1977.<sup>(35)</sup> It would have called for full and adequate compensation to Angola by South Africa for the damage to life and property resulting from the armed invasion. The Council would have decided to send immediately to Angola an investigation commission of five Council members for an on-the-spot evaluation of the critical situation resulting from the invasion, with a mandate to report to the Council by 30 September. Finally, the Council would have decided to remain seized of the question and to meet again to consider the implementation of the resolution.

The vote on this draft was as follows:

In favour: China, France, German Democratic Republic, Ireland, Japan, Mexico, Niger, Panama, Philippines, Spain, Tunisia, Uganda, USSR.  
Against: United States.  
Abstaining: United Kingdom.

The text was revised twice before the vote. By the first revision, a paragraph by which the Council would have decided to impose comprehensive and mandatory sanctions under Chapter VII of the Charter was deleted. By the second, the six references to "acts of aggression" were replaced by "armed invasion", and the invasion was described as a danger to rather than a breach of international peace and security.

Explaining its negative vote, the United States said the draft blamed South Africa alone for the escalation of violence, whereas the presence of foreign-particularly Cuban-combat forces and USSR military advisers in Angola, along with the provision to SWAPO of arms of USSR origin, fuelled the explosive atmosphere of confrontation and violence. The United Kingdom, abstaining, said that although it could support much of the draft, particularly the demand for troop withdrawal, it did not believe that offensive characterizations and highly coloured rhetoric contributed to peaceful solutions; moreover, it did not regard the text as constituting a determination under Article 39 of the Charter (on the existence of a threat to peace, breach of peace or act of aggression).

The USSR said it had voted for the draft because it reflected the demands of the victim of the aggression as well as the position and interests of Africa; the negative vote of the United States had been cast in the context of its new