

SAM NUJOMA SPEAKS



Sam Nujoma, President of SWAPO

At a press conference in Cuba during the 11th World Youth Festival, Comrade Sam Nujoma, President of SWAPO told the pressmen and journalists that:

"The Western powers are proposing that SWAPO and South Africa should cease hostilities and the fight must end so that through the United Nations Security Resolution 385 a process of decolonisation can start and this is what this is all about. Now in the first place, there is involved the withdrawal of the South African troops and the Western powers are telling us that the Pretoria racist regime has agreed to withdraw stage by stage its repressive armed forces from Namibia and the first I have asked them for — what they term face saving device — that means enemy troops numbering about 1,500 should remain in Namibia during the political process leading to independence. Well SWAPO makes the concession in this respect, that these troops can remain in Namibia provided that they are confined to their base during the political process leading to elections and also SWAPO insisted that during the transitional period the UN should run the administration and not the South African racists administrators there.

With regard to Walvis Bay, as far as SWAPO is concerned, Walvis Bay has been and is still and will remain forever an integral part of Namibia. SWAPO fights to liberate each and every region of Namibia including Walvis Bay. We are fully participating in this decolonisation process through the UN, but if such decolonisation process fails to achieve or implement fully Security Council Resolution 385 the people of Namibia under the banner of SWAPO will continue to intensify the armed revolutionary struggle because this is the only technical way that leads our people to genuine freedom and independence.

Well, with regard to the question about the enemy attack on SWAPO of Namibian refugee settlement at Kassinga and the people of the Republic of Angola that is, it was clear aggression on the part of the Pretoria racist regime against the Peoples Republic of Angola and the Namibian people. It is true the Settlement was inhabited by more than 4,000 people mostly women and children. The bombardment was very heavy throughout the day from 7.15 in the morning to 6 p.m. in the afternoon. We lost more than 700 comrades and more than 400 injured, the majority of them being women and children. Certainly SWAPO considered that this is an enemy attack and all that we will do is to attack the enemy at each base. We know where the enemy is located in Namibia as well as in South Africa. We don't feel a pity about it that we do take up our full responsibility in order to ensure total defeat of the enemy and that the seizure of power by the Namibian people becomes a reality in Namibia."

Then he continued to explain:

"I must tell you that during the talks between SWAPO on the one hand, the Western powers and South Africa, on the other, that I mean the Western powers were representing the interests of South Africa, the racist Pretoria regime continued to increase its methods of repression against the Namibian people. While the negotiations were on, unilaterally, the racist Pretoria regime appointed in August last year a so called Administrator General. We are made to understand by the statement made by the South African Government that the so called Administrator General's duties and task in Namibia were to repeal repressive laws but to our knowledge up to this very moment the so called Administrator General has been proclaiming emergency regulations AG26, AG50 etc. These emergency regulations empowered the South African police as well as soldiers to arrest and detain SWAPO leaders, members and supporters. Also instigated deliberately by



Sam Nujoma addresses a press conference in Havana

the Administrator General organised violence whereby the police in Windhoek and other towns distribute weapons to the puppets of Turnhalle and other reactionary elements in the service of the enemy, which resulted in the killing of many members of SWAPO in Windhoek, Ochiravango, Otakarara as well as other places in Namibia. As we are talking here the South African police including soldiers are still rounding up leaders and members of SWAPO, inside Namibia. It is significant that you note that there are some journalists who were at our Press Conference in Luanda after the talks we had with the Western powers, that those journalists who came from Windhoek after they returned they were arrested at the airport as soon as they landed and imprisoned. In the meantime the so called Administrator General has already issued proclamation of registration of voters

and of course is providing the Turnhalle Democratic Alliance so called, with all the facilities, in fact they have long started campaigning for elections whereas our comrades are locked up and some of us are in exile. One really wonders as to the impartiality and honesty of the Pretoria racist regime when it has claimed to have accepted the Western power proposal aiming at achieving a negotiated settlement in Namibia. While the negotiations were still on, Stein and his Government attacked in several locations militarily the Peoples Republic of Angola including Kassinga."

He acknowledged the assistance rendered by progressive people throughout the world:

"Well, certainly we do receive support from the Socialist countries, from the OAU



SWAPO delegation at the Havana Festival



Sam Nujoma with foreign delegates in Cuba

member states, from national and international organisations in the capitalist world as well as from individuals. SWAPO has held to the view that the main burden of the liberation struggle of our country has to be borne by the Namibians themselves. Therefore we appreciate your support by writing articles to inform world public opinion about the struggle being waged by the Namibian people under the leadership of SWAPO. To us this is a great contribution to our struggle, but the liberation struggle of Namibia remains the sole responsibility of the Namibian people under the leadership of SWAPO..”

He denounced the reactionary elements in the service of imperialism:

“Certainly there were reactionary elements who were detained by the Tanzanian Government but not thousands as we have the Pretoria regime and the Western news media are claiming to be. There are only a few of those reactionary elements and I

want to make very clear that these reactionary elements are not politically a threat to SWAPO. They are in the service of the enemy — in that sense they are a threat to the struggle of the Namibian people in particular and Southern Africa in general because they are being used by the enemy of the African people.

Perhaps I can elaborate more with regard to West Germany's attitude to SWAPO. Well as far as we know, the West German Government is one of those governments in the Western world rendering concrete material assistance to South Africa in terms of arms, economic, political and diplomatic support which enables the Pretoria racist regime to defy world public opinion as well as United Nations resolutions with regard to Namibia and because of that support the Pretoria racist regime carries out massacres such as that of Soweto, Alexandra Township as well as daily killing in cold blood of the South African people who are resisting racial discrimination, apartheid and oppression. The case in point

here is that of late Steve Biko and others and this is being done in the name of so called support of Western Christian civilisation."

He concluded the press conference with a clear statement on SWAPO's future policy and accused UNITA and CIA of involvement with racist South Africa:

"As far as SWAPO is concerned we apprec-

iate the efforts of Governments, national and international organisations as well as individuals who are supporting our cause because our belief is that the struggle for the liberation of Namibia is the responsibility of the Namibians themselves to fight and overthrow the shackles of colonialism and imperialism. However on this particular issue, I don't think any country or any individual should get the credit of claiming that they have brought about independence



Victims of the Kassinga massacres

to Namibia. Namibia's independence or the developments which have led to the current negotiations between the Namibian people, Western powers and racist South Africa indirectly — this came as a result of bitter struggle, hardships, sufferings and sacrifices, which generation after generation of Namibia has made. Our freedom is spelt in blood and we will make sure that we continue to fight and liberate ourselves and nobody should take the credit of the suffering and sacrifices of the Namibian people.

Well certainly we have not discussed any point concerning the Namibian mineral wealth and the mineral wealth belongs to Namibia and its people. Why should we discuss it with foreigners there is no need to indulge in that fruitless exercise.

Secondly, SWAPO's policy with regard to future economic development is first of all, clear occupation to fight and liberate Namibia. After the liberation when we achieve political independence we will have a programme of the new phase of the struggle and that is economic development. Our policy will be to make sure that we destroy the economic system of exploitation by foreigners in Namibia and replace these colonial institutions with new institutions which will enable the Namibian people irrespective of their colour or race or places of origin to benefit from the mineral resources that exist in our country. That means that we will not allow further foreign exploitation of Namibian mineral wealth. Multinational corporations belonging to the Western countries have opened up a uranium mine in the vicinity of Walvis Bay. That is a clear indication that South Africa first of all wants to maintain Walvis Bay under its control and hold Namibia to ransom to dictate to Namibia — its foreign as well as national policies. That for Namibia's important export to go through Walvis Bay we must trade with that country or we must not have diplomatic relations with this country or another.

Also the military build up in Namibia by South Africa which is still increasing up to this moment makes one want to wonder as to how could such a regime intend to relinquish its colonialism over Namibia and yet they are still constructing

more military bases and more troops daily are brought to the frontier more particularly that of the Peoples Republic of Angola. Here we see South Africa and the Western powers play a role of giving South Africa much more advantages, politically as well as militarily with a view to create an apartheid regime in Namibia, which will be controlled and manipulated from Pretoria and through which the Western countries through their vast national corporations will continue to exploit Namibian mineral wealth while the Namibian people are suffering from hunger, disease and ignorance. This is how we look at the situation.

The UNITA bandits, counter-revolutionaries, are in the service of the enemies of the Namibian people, Angola and Africa in general. Therefore certainly such a group is dangerous because they are easily used by the South African racists in Namibia — they are being trained there at Virkefontein, Oruntu, Ondangua and other military bases in Namibia and after training they are being armed, infiltrated into Angola, sometimes in the company of South African troops along the border areas where these counter-revolutionaries are planting land-mines on the roads as well as anti-personnel mines between the paths and the waterholes where the people normally in villages are taking water from, so these reactionary elements are being used by the enemies of the African people, in that way.

Well in regard to the involvement of the CIA in Namibia, from what we read from the news media and books written by people who were involved in the CIA is that the racist Pretoria regime worked together with the CIA during the invasion by South African troops using Namibia as a springboard to attack the Peoples Republic of Angola. That is clear that the CIA and the BOSS, the State Security South African secret service, are working together against the interests of the oppressed people in Namibia, as well as that of the Peoples Republic of Angola. This is clearly coming from the news media of the west and the books written by those who were involved."