NAMIBIA - THE AI-GAMS DECLARATION

'we, the duly authorized representatives of the undermentioned churches, political parties and groups, women's organizations and the student movement, who represent the overwhelming majority of the Namibian people, having gathered in Klein Windhoek at a meeting under the auspices of the Council of Churches in Namibia (CCN) on the 29th and 30th April 1986 -

Having discussed, reviewed, analyzed in depth the worsening political, economic, social and military situation in Namibia today, having noted the frustration felt by our people at the continued delay in gaining an internationally recognized independence, unanimously resolve as follows:

1.1 to reject South Africa's continuing delaying tactics and its persistent refusal to have United Nations Security Council resolution 435 of 1978 implemented (which resolution was accepted by all parties concerned, including the Republic of South Africa and the United States of America);

1.2 to reject the unholy alliance between the United States of America and the Republic of South Africa in their attempts to bypass the said United Nations Security Council resolution 435 by linking the independence of Namibia to issues which are totally extraneous, such as the withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola;

1.3 to reject the succession of Pretoria installed puppet governments of which the so-called Transitional Government is the latest creation;

1.4 to reject the so-called Transitional Government on the grounds that:

1.4.1 it is forced upon our people by South Africa;

1.4.2 it is kept in power only by the sheer brutal force of the army of occupation, the police, 'Koevoet', etc.;

1.4.3 it is not elected and has no mandate from the Namibian people;

1.5 to reject the increasingly repressive nature and dictatorial actions of the so-called Transitional Government, in particular the latest ban on all gatherings in the Windhoek magisterial district in terms of the Riotous Assemblies Act, an act which in itself is such a flagrant violation of fundamental human rights that it has even been abolished in South Africa;

1.6 to reject the illegal presence of the South African army in Namibia, the forced conscription of Namibians, the creation of the so-called South West Africa Territorial Force through which civil war is being forced upon the people of Namibia;

1.7 to condemn all the oppressive and inhuman laws applicable in Namibia, in particular AG 9, AG 26 and the Terrorism Act of 1967;

THEREFORE, WE REAFFIRM -

2.1 the inalienable right of the Namibian people to gain their self-determination and independence now;

2.2 the inviolability of the territorial integrity of our country and our commitment to ONE NAMIBIA, ONE NATION;

2.3 the international status of Namibia and the obligations of the international community;

2.4 that United Nations Security Council resolution 435 is the only peaceful, democratic way of achieving an internationally recognized independence for Namibia.

CONSEQUENTLY, WE SEVERALLY AND COLLECTIVELY COMMIT OURSELVES TO -

3.1 mobilize and conscientize the Namibian masses so as to actively resist the status quo;

3.2 embark on a campaign of positive action aimed at bringing about the immediate and unconditional implementation of United Nations Security Council resolution 435;

3.3 work towards the abolition of the so-called Transitional Government and its replacement by an internationally recognized and democratically elected government truly representative of the Namibian people;

3.4 carry on the campaign against compulsory military service.

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
ANGLICAN DIOCESE OF NAMIBIA
METHODIST CHURCH
SOUTH WEST AFRICA PEOPLES ORGANIZATION
DAMARA COUNCIL
NAMIBIA CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY
NUDO PROGRESSIVE PARTY
NAMIBIA WOMEN'S VOICE

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
COUNCIL OF CHURCHES IN NAMIBIA
SOUTH WEST AFRICA NATIONAL UNION
MBANDERU COUNCIL
NAMIBIA INDEPENDENCE PARTY
NAMIBIA NATIONAL STUDENTS ORGANIZATION
YOUNG WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION
The Council of Churches in Namibia consists of the major religious bodies in the occupied Territory and is a vital and progressive entity which speaks for the overwhelming number of Namibians. Last year the CCN sponsored a conference of churches, political parties, women's organizations and student groups which issued the landmark Ai-Gams Declaration, a manifesto condemning the illegal occupation of Namibia by the Pretoria regime and pledging the signatories to working for an internationally recognized and democratically elected Government of Namibia in terms of United Nations Security Council resolution 435. Ai-Gams also denounced the 'unholy alliance' between the present United States government and Pretoria.

A plethora of organizations claiming religious intent have surfaced in Namibia - with the obvious aim of undercutting the CCN. THE NAMIBIAN newspaper in Windhoek has kept close watch of these and is smoking out what is behind them. A group called Christian Action flooded the country with leaflets attacking Ai-Gams, describing its supporters as members of a 'front organization...supporters of SWAPO, the ANC and UDF - support for communism which rejects God totally'. One of Christian Action's prime movers is a colonel in the South African army.

Two years ago Youth for Christ Namibia was set up for 'training youth leaders of all levels of society to ensure Namibia of a stable Christian, anti-communist future'. The board of directors were prominent businessmen; YFC's vice chairman was the commanding officer of the Walvis Bay military area.

In July, the ever-alert NAMIBIAN reported on something called the Namibian Churches Union, a tribally-oriented outfit composed of some suddenly created 'bishops' and promoted abroad by the public relations department of Pretoria's hand-picked Transitional Government maintained in Windhoek. NCU's phone number turned out to be that of one of the TG's puppet political parties. As the South African regime squirms to hang on to supremacy it will come up with more fronts to try to gull and confuse people at home and overseas and to enlist reactionary elements in Western countries - principally the United States.