

I invite Mr Kandetu and his colleagues in Swapo to abandon their pretence and elitist attitudes and to join hands with their fellow Namibians in building the sort of country of which we can all be proud. Swapo should release the detainees it is holding without trial; stop the atrocities in its camps and show that it is interested in giving effect to the goal of 'one Namibia, one nation'.

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Delaying tactic

ALLOW me a space in the people's paper to query the irresponsible activities of the superpowers, mainly the United States.

First of all they linked the Namibian peace process to the withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola; now they want to link the number of Untag troops and officials with the negotiations. To clarify the second point, I wish to state that the Americans are the ones who have the money; they are the ones who have to pay for the implementation of Resolution 435.

Now the US have another excuse: they say that they can only afford R100 million or the equivalent in Dollars. This means that the Untag component has to be reduced. If they have to pay the full amount (for Untag) then they will demand that the Angolan Government negotiate with Unita. George Bush claimed to have brought peace to Africa (with his predecessor, Reagan), so what is going on?

How can 3000 (Untag) troops monitor over 60 000 (South African) troops? How can Namibia's independence be linked to the accommodation of Unita in the

Angolan government? It appears to me that the Americans want war. They are the ones continuing with their CIA to support Unita. They are the ones who declared the ANC a terrorist movement; they are the ones which attacked the MiG 23's of Libya; they are the ones who don't want the Palestinians to negotiate with the Israelis.

If they want to reduce the number of Untag troops, then they must change Resolution 435, because: Resolution 435 says that 7500 Untag troops will arrive in Namibia to supervise the elections; Resolution 435 does not stipulate that the Angolan Government must negotiate with Unita; and in Resolution 435 there is no such thing that Untag troops must be combined with the Koevoet or the police.

If they want to contradict Resolution 435, then they must reformulate it.

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Reply to Matjila

IN your first issue for 1989, Mr Matjila is reported as having indignantly repudiated, on behalf of the nation, an ECOSOC Commission finding that the situation of Namibian women needs urgent attention. More specifically, he declares himself satisfied with the manner in which violence against women is handled by law enforcement agencies and the courts.

The Minister is entitled to his personal opinion on what measures are 'strict' and what punishments 'appropriate'. But the reality is not so reassuring. Attentive readers of the English language weeklies - especially reports of criminal and divorce proceedings - will have noticed that violence against women is escalating at an