

Having heard a report by the Secretary-General of the United Nations on his mission of good offices, pursued jointly with the current Chairman of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity, in conformity with General Assembly resolution 40/50 of 2 December 1985, with a view to settling the question of Western Sahara,

Taking note of the agreement in principle given by the Kingdom of Morocco and the Frente Popular para la Liberación de Saguia el-Hamra y de Rio de Oro on 30 August 1988 to the joint proposals of the Secretary-General and the current Chairman of the Organization of African Unity,

40. LETTER DATED 17 DECEMBER 1988 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ANGOLA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

LETTER DATED 17 DECEMBER 1988 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF CUBA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

INITIAL PROCEEDINGS

By identical letters¹ dated 17 December 1988 addressed to the Secretary-General, the representatives of Angola and Cuba, respectively, informed the Secretary-General that, taking into account the fact that South Africa had formally undertaken to accept the implementation of Security Council resolution 435 (1978) with effect from 1 April 1989, it was the intention of their two Governments to sign, on 22 December 1988, an agreement providing for the redeployment northwards and the withdrawal of Cuban troops from the territory of Angola, in accordance with a timetable agreed between the two countries, and for verification by the United Nations of the implementation of the relevant provisions of the agreement. Accordingly, the representatives of Angola and Cuba, respectively, requested the Secretary-General to take the necessary steps to recommend to the Security Council that a group of United Nations military observers be fielded to carry out this mandate, in accordance with the agreements which representatives of the two countries had already reached with the Secretariat.

On 17 December 1988, the Secretary-General submitted a report² to the Security Council in order to help the Council to consider how it might respond to the request in the identical letters from Angola and Cuba about how such an observer mission might be carried out, if the Security Council decided to accept the request of the two Governments. The Secretary-General recommended that, if the Council decided to accede to the request of Angola and Cuba, an observer group should have the mandate of verifying the redeployment northwards and the phased and total withdrawal of Cuban troops from the territory of Angola, in accordance with the timetable agreed between Angola and Cuba. The Secretary-General further stated that the duration of the mission's mandate would be approximately 31 months; and that the observer group, which would be known as the United Nations Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM), would be under the command

Anxious to support these efforts with a view to the holding of a referendum for self-determination of the people of Western Sahara, organized and supervised by the United Nations in cooperation with the Organization of African Unity,

1. *Decides* to authorize the Secretary-General to appoint a special representative for Western Sahara;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to transmit to it as soon as possible a report on the holding of a referendum for self-determination of the people of Western Sahara and on ways and means to ensure the organization and supervision of such a referendum by the United Nations in cooperation with the Organization of African Unity.

of the United Nations, vested in the Secretary-General, under the authority of the Security Council.

Decision of 20 December 1988 (2834th meeting): resolution 626 (1988)

At its 2834th meeting, on 20 December 1988, the Security Council included in its agenda the item entitled "Letter dated 17 December 1988 from the Permanent Representative of Angola to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General";

"Letter dated 17 December 1988 from the Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General".³

The Council considered the item at the same meeting.

The President drew the attention of the members of the Council to the text of a draft resolution⁴ that had been prepared in the course of the Council's consultations.

At the same meeting, the draft resolution was voted upon and adopted unanimously as resolution 626 (1988).⁵ The resolution reads as follows:

The Security Council,

Noting the decision of Angola and Cuba to conclude a bilateral agreement on 22 December 1988 for the redeployment to the north and the staged and total withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola, according to the agreed timetable,

Considering the request submitted to the Secretary-General by Angola and Cuba in letters dated 17 December 1988,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General dated 17 December 1988,

1. *Approves* the report of the Secretary-General and the recommendations therein;

2. *Decides* to establish under its authority a United Nations Angola Verification Mission and requests the Secretary-General to take the necessary steps to this effect in accordance with his aforementioned report;

3. *Also decides* that the Mission shall be established for a period of thirty-one months;

4. *Further decides* that the arrangements for the establishment of the Mission shall enter into force as soon as the tripartite agreement

¹S/20336 (letter dated 17 December 1988 from the Permanent Representative of Angola to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General) and S/20337 (letter dated 17 December 1988 from the Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General).

²S/20338.

³For adoption of the agenda, see S/PV.2834, p. 2.

⁴S/20339, subsequently adopted as resolution 626 (1988).

⁵For the vote, see S/PV.2834, pp. 2 and 3.

between Angola, Cuba and South Africa, on the one hand, and the bilateral agreement between Angola and Cuba, on the other, are signed;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the Security Council immediately after the signature of the agreements referred to in paragraph 4 and to keep the Council fully informed of further developments.

Decision of 23 December 1988: exchange of letters between the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On 22 December 1988, the Secretary-General submitted a report⁶ in pursuance of Security Council resolution 626 (1988), stating that the agreements⁷ referred to in paragraph 4 of that resolution had been signed by the parties

⁶S/20347.

⁷S/20345 (letter dated 22 December 1988 from Cuba addressed to the President of the Security Council, transmitting the bilateral agreement, signed on the same date, between the Governments of Angola and Cuba).

concerned at United Nations Headquarters on the same date, and that, accordingly, the arrangements for the establishment of the United Nations Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM) had entered into force.

By a letter⁸ dated 23 December 1988 addressed to the President of the Security Council, the Secretary-General sought the consent of the Council to his proposal for the composition of UNAVEM and to his intention to appoint Brigadier-General Péricles Ferreira Gomes as Chief Military Observer of UNAVEM.

By a letter⁹ dated 23 December 1988 addressed to the Secretary-General, the President of the Security Council informed the Secretary-General of the Council's agreement with his proposals concerning the composition of UNAVEM and the appointment of Brigadier-General Péricles Ferreira Gomes as Chief Military Observer of UNAVEM.

⁸S/20351.

⁹S/20352.