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PREPARATIONS FOR THE FOURTH PROGRAMMING CYCLE

The Administrator is circulating herewith a communication dated 19 February from the Acting President of the United Nations Council for Namibia, addressed to the President of the Governing Council of UNDP.

Annex

I have the hon : to refer to the special meeting of the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme scheduled to take place in New York from 19 to 22 February 1985 to make the necessary preparations for the fourth programming cycle of UNDP. In this regard, I note that the document DP/1985/1/ANNEX proposes the IPF for Namibia to be established as follows:

1987-1991 IPF

Resource level 1	Resource level 2	Resource level 3	Resource level 4
\$3.41 million	\$3.41 million	\$3.41 million	\$3.43 million

As you are aware, the IPF for the present programming cycle amounts to \$US 7.75 million with a total of \$US 4.3 million made available for programming. Hence the proposed IPF for the next cycle is some \$US 900,000 lower than the amount made available for programming under the current IPF.

In my capacity as Acting President of the United Nations Council for Namibia, the legal Administering Authority for the country until independence, I wish to express, on behalf of the Council, my deep concern over this proposed reduction which, if implemented, would seriously hamper the work of the Council aimed at preparing Namibians for independence.

I am, of course, aware of the criteria, including population size and per capita GNP, as well as a set of supplementary criteria being used to determine the IPF for each country. However, I should like to take this opportunity to draw your attention to a number of special circumstances that I believe would need to be taken into consideration when deciding the amount of UNDP resources to be allocated to Namibia.

First and foremost, it is important to take into account that the United Nations itself has assumed responsibility for Namibia until independence. Hence, the United Nations has also incurred a solemn obligation to provide the Namibian people with comprehensive material assistance. Indeed, the General Assembly, in recognition of the special responsibility of the United Nations for Namibia, has on several occasions called upon UNDP to increase the IPF allocation for that country (e.g. resolution 39/50 E of 12 December 1984).

As you are aware, Mr. President, the main vehicles of financing assistance programmes for Namibia over the past 10 years have been the United Nations Fund for Namibia along with the IPF for Namibia. In this regard, all IPF resources available for the present cycle have been fully committed for the United Nations Institute for Namibia and for various projects under the Nationhood Programme for Namibia. Similarly, virtually all resources under the Fund for Namibia have been committed. As a result, there is presently hardly any room for expanding the assistance activities of the Council for Namibia due to lack of financial resources, and a reduction of the IPF for Namibia for the next cycle would

therefore seriously affect the overall impact of the assistance programmes of the United Nations.

We all realize that, as a result of the bantu education system presently being applied in Namibia, the educational level of the Namibians is generally very low, and the United Nations is therefore charged with the enormous task of providing training in virtually every field in order to ensure that at least a core of well educated Namibians will be available at the time of independence to assume responsible positions to govern the country. So far, only a small part of this task has been accomplished, and there is therefore a need to increase, rather than reduce, the level of activity of the assistance programmes of the United Nations with regard to Namibia.

Allow me also to point out that if, as we all hope, Namibia becomes independent in the near future, the need for financial resources to reconstruct the country after a century of colonial domination will be even greater.

Finally, I should like to comment on the population and GNP figures which have been used to calculate the proposed IPF for Namibia. Firstly, I note that the population figure used is substantially lower than the figure of 1.5 million which has been established through various studies. Secondly, the figure for the GNP does not take into consideration that a large portion of the earnings from the mining industry, the backbone of the Namibian economy, is repatriated out of the country, and it disguises the fact that the income of most black Namibians amounts to only a fraction of the average income of the white minority. Hence it does not reflect an accurate picture of the level of development for the majority of the population.

Against this background, I wish to appeal to the Governing Council to consider increasing the IPF for Namibia for the fourth programming cycle over and above the IPF for the present cycle in order to enable the United Nations to effectively discharge its responsibility of providing comprehensive material assistance to the Namibian people.

The Council for Namibia has taken the liberty of writing to all members of the Governing Council individually to bring the above facts to their attention. However, I should still appreciate if you would direct that this letter be circulated as an official document of the Governing Council.

(Signed) Noel SINCLAIR
Acting President
United Nations Council for Namibia

