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information & comment

NEW YEAR MESSAGE BY COMRADE SAM NUJOMA, PRESIDENT OF SWAPO,
TO THE NAMIBIAN PEOPLE, JANUARY 1, 1986.

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Dear Compatriots,
Comrades Members of SWAPO and
Gallant Combatants of the People's
Liberation Army of Namibia (PLAN):

Good Evening!

Today marks the end of 1985, the year which was declared as the Year of United Action for People's Victory. Nineteen-eighty-five (1985) is ending without the Namibian people attaining their long-cherished goal of Namibia's self-determination and national independence. This is the most opportune moment for every Namibian patriot to pause and ask himself or herself: "What have I done in the passing year to advance the struggle for Namibia's independence towards final victory?"

Patriotic honesty would compel us to admit that not all of us have done our utmost best in contributing to the advancement of the struggle, otherwise Namibia would be free today. However,

this admission that some of our compatriots have not lived up to their patriotic duties, does not mean that many other Namibians have not made supreme sacrifices in our noble cause to liberate Namibia. Many Namibians have been subjected to untold suffering in the form of torture, beatings, detention without trial, rape and general harrassment. Many others have sacrificed with their precious lives while others have disappeared without a trace.

The year 1985 has witnessed an escalation in the reign of terror and repression by the racist occupationist regime in Namibia. The notorious murder squads of "KOEVOET", Batallions 32 and 101, "TAKKIE" and "ETANGO" were given a free reign to terrorize and massacre Namibians under the cover of draconian laws and news blackout. Racist South Africa went to great lengths to try to force and silence the Namibian masses into accepting its colonial impositions in Namibia, such as the so-called interim government.

Notwithstanding the untold sufferings and hardships, to which the Namibian people have been subjected, over the past twelve (12) months, the Namibian masses have heroically rallied behind their vanguard Movement, SWAPO of Namibia, in response to the clarion call to make 1985 the Year of United Action for People's Victory.

The Namibian people scored resounding victories over racist South Africa in various fronts.

On the political front, SWAPO marked its 25th anniversary as the only organized political and military force in the vanguard of the National Liberation Struggle in our country.

It has successfully mobilised and led the masses of our people into united anti-colonial resistance and in this regard, SWAPO has been able to lead thousands of its followers and allied patriots into open political confrontation with the forces of occupation. In Windhoek, for example, SWAPO supporters and sympathisers defied "KOEVOET" intimidation and came out in their thousands to mark the 25th anniversary of SWAPO, the 7th anniversary of the Kassinga massacre, the 19th anniversary of the launching of the armed national liberation struggle on 26th August, also known as Namibia Day, and the 26th anniversary of the Windhoek massacre of 1959. To all this must be added the huge rally of demonstrators on the 17th of June against the proclamation of the puppet regime, which has since been totally rejected by the masses of our people.

The broad mass political support for SWAPO was further demonstrated when thousands of jubilant Namibians came out in the streets on different occasions to welcome groups of SWAPO political prisoners who were released during the course of 1985, from the Mariental concentration camp and Robben Island.

Nineteen-eighty-five (1985) also witnessed the continued intensification of the armed liberation struggle in Namibia.

PLAN combatants carried out numerous military actions against the enemy of our people in many parts of Namibia and scored impressive victories. During the first half of 1985 alone, PLAN combatants carried out numerous military operations, killing more than 585 enemy troops and their local, puppet auxiliaries and seriously wounding hundreds of others. Various sabotage actions and ever-intensifying guerrilla resistance by

PLAN combatants, have raised the financial burden of racist South Africa's war in Namibia to a level where the hard-pressed Pretoria regime has to pour over 3 billion Rands a year into its Namibian misadventure.

On the diplomatic front, SWAPO's international prestige continued to rise during 1985. For example, its 25th anniversary was celebrated throughout the world and was crowned with the holding of the Special Conference on Namibia by the Co-ordinating Bureau of the Non-Aligned Movement on 19th April, 1985, at which Indian Prime Minister, Rajiv Gandhi extended full diplomatic status to SWAPO. Several other Member States of the Non-Aligned Movement took similar actions. The international community continued to give moral, political and material support to the Namibian people in their just struggle for self-determination and genuine national independence, throughout the closing year. Also, as a result of the sustained pressure by the international community, several Namibian patriots were released from South African racist prisons at Mariental, Robben Island and Pretoria. This included Comrade Eliaser Tuhadeleni, who spent the last 19 years in racist jails.

In the light of the above stated political, military and diplomatic actions carried out by the Namibian patriots against the enemy, and the victories scored towards Namibia's independence, we can sum-up that 1985 has indeed been a year of united action towards our people's final victory. We have not realized our cherished goal of independence as yet. But we have definitely made impressive progress towards that goal. Therefore, I would like, in the name of the Central Committee,

to congratulate all of you, Namibian patriots who have contributed to the advancement of our liberation struggle, in the course of the closing year. I now wish to extend seasonal greetings to you all, dear compatriots, and revolutionary salutations in the New Year.

While the rest of free mankind is rejoicing during these Christmas and New Year festivities, we Namibians continue to mark these occasions under misery and hardships. Many are in concentration camps and racist prisons. Thousands of others are in exile and separated from their beloved families. Many more continue to suffer under the repressive army of occupation in the war zones. It is, therefore, the sacred duty of every responsible and patriotic Namibia to reverse this situation in the New Year.

Let us all join forces and make the year 1986, THE YEAR OF DECISIVE ACTION FOR FINAL VICTORY.

Under this clarion call, our actions should be directed towards maximum mobilization and sustained attacks against the enemy on all fronts. Under this guideline of the Central Committee of SWAPO, every Namibian patriot has the possibility and capability of carrying out specific actions against the enemy in order to accelerate the liberation struggle to its final victory.

Each sector of the Namibian population is called upon to make positive and tangible contributions to the advancement of the struggle. In the name of the SWAPO Central Committee and the Namibian revolution, I call upon the Namibian peasants

to continue to support the heroic combatants of PLAN with food, shelter, information about enemy movements and different other forms of sabotage actions against enemy atrocities perpetrated to force you to give up your support to the struggle for national liberation.

I call on the Namibian workers to turn the factories, mines, colonial farms, construction sites, railway stations and colonial offices into battle-grounds against the occupation regime and its treacherous puppets. Everyday, every week, every month, you must think of a specific anti-colonial action which will help to hasten the day of Namibia's independence. You must always remember that you occupy a critical and strategic position to cripple the foundations of colonialism in Namibia. Your failure to act on a committed and sustained basis against enemy interests has the consequence of delaying Namibia's independence and, therefore, prolonging the suffering of our people.

I call on the youths and students of Namibia to turn schools, colleges and other sports and youth organizations into arenas of confrontation against the occupation regime. Agitation, demonstrations, boycotts, strikes and other militant activities must form the basis of your anti-colonial action in the year 1986. The colonial education that you are receiving is meaningless without liberation.

The Central Committee of SWAPO calls upon the women of Namibia to continue playing their historical and vital role of active participation in the struggle. I urge you to emulate

the militant traditions of Namibian heroines such as Kakurukaze, who sacrificed in anti-colonial confrontation with the racist South African police in Windhoek in 1959, and Ida Jimmy, who spent many years behind South African prison bars without giving up her commitment to the struggle for liberation. As mothers and wives, you are in a strategic position to influence your children and your husbands not to become traitors in the struggle for freedom and genuine independence. On the contrary, you can give moral encouragement to them by urging them to instead support and join the ranks of PLAN.

Furthermore, I call upon the intellectuals and professionals to resist the temptation of petty-bourgeoisie vacillations. Use your skills, knowledge and talents to undermine the colonial regime and its puppets. Use your cultural and artistic creativity as a weapon in the fight against colonialism. As teachers, you must politicise and mobilise your students. As nurses, you can organise your patients to become anti-colonial activists. There is no limit to the number of actions that you can initiate and carry out in your respective fields to speed up the process of liberation.

Finally and most importantly, I urge all those misguided Namibians who have allowed themselves to be used as enemy agents of oppression, to realise^{that} the days of the colonial regime they are serving are numbered. Consequently, the ill-gotten material rewards which made them to become collaborators will soon come to a shameful end. Your images have been tarnished. Your names are in disgrace. But it is

not yet too late to redeem yourselves by beginning to confront the enemy from within. Those who have been conscripted must turn their guns against the enemy of the Namibian people--the racist soldiers--or simply desert and join the ranks of PLAN. Sabotage of enemy installations which you guard is another way of redeeming your tarnished image. Act today; tomorrow may be too late.

All these are sacred and patriotic duties which we must all carry out without failure to make 1986 THE YEAR OF DECISIVE ACTION FOR FINAL VICTORY. If each and everyone of us performs his or her specific task, 1986 will bring us at the cross-roads of Namibia's independence.

To the rank and file of SWAPO, at home and abroad, and in particular the combatants of PLAN, I extend heartfelt congratulations for your perseverance and zeal in executing the directives of the Central Committee of SWAPO in the course of 1985. I urge you to redouble your efforts to further intensify the pressure on the enemy in the coming year. Your leadership is proud of your devotion to the liberation struggle.

In conclusion, I would like to extend, on behalf of SWAPO, warm seasonal greetings and sincere gratitude to all countries, national and international organizations and individuals who have supported our struggle in the course of the closing year. In this connection, I would like to single out the Frontline States, in particular the People's Republic of Angola, for their priceless and unwavering support rendered to our struggle in the face of enemy aggression and destabilization.

As we pledge to intensify our struggle, we are sustained in our resolve by the knowledge that we are not alone in our fight against apartheid colonialism. We are aware that we are fighting shoulder to shoulder with our South African comrades-in-arms, led by the ANC to whom we extend fraternal felicitations and best wishes for a victorious New Year. I also extend, on behalf of the Central Committee of SWAPO, same wishes for a successful 1986 to all the peoples of the world fighting for liberation, democracy, justice, peace and social progress.

THE STRUGGLE CONTINUES, VICTORY IS CERTAIN!

Goodnight compatriots, combatants, comrades and dear listeners.

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