

Dr. Ellery

Dear Eisen -

I used your summary
of Namibia with my high
school classes, and, as
promised am enclosing
Boji's summary of the
southern African situation
This was his talk at the
Socialist Workers Party
last night (3/23); it was
well received and appreciated.
Hope you can use parts in
the public education job
we're trying to do. I also
used Revolution in Africa
in my classes - copy enclosed.
Are you going to the
P.T.O. →

PAC Day at the U.N.?
I know Boji told them
to send invitations to
the Albany Coalition.
Perhaps we'll see you
there - Barbara E.

CAPITAL DISTRICT COALITION AGAINST APARTHEID AND RACISM
A PROJECT OF THE SOCIAL JUSTICE CENTER

What's the story behind Namibia? A short history - Part 1 of 2

Namibia is a vast territory in the south-western part of the continent of Africa, bordered by the Atlantic Ocean on the west, by Angola on the north, by Zambia on the northeast, by Botswana on the east and by South Africa on the south. The population is approximately 1.5 million and in land area it measures 318,261 square miles.

Namibia has a long history of colonial occupation and oppression. Before the First World War, the Territory of South West Africa, as it was then called, was occupied by Germany. South West Africa was Germany's only colony regarded as suitable of white immigration. German policy encouraged white settlement in the lands previously owned by the African inhabitants. The takeover of the resource rich lands in the south and center of the country met with fierce resistance on the part of the African people and led to rebellions from 1904 to 1907. These rebellions were savagely crushed by the German colonial army.

In 1920, following Germany's defeat in the First World War, South West Africa became a League of Nations Mandate under South African administration. Although the Mandate called for South Africa to promote to the utmost the material and moral well-being of the inhabitants of South West Africa what actually happened made the survival of the native African inhabitants even more difficult. New farms were allocated to white settlers, Africans were forcibly restricted to reservations, mostly in the poor agricultural land in the north, the sandvelds of the Kalahari desert or to "urban locations" near centers of industry where they were permitted to stay only for purposes of employment.

After the establishment of the United Nations in 1945, the General Assembly called on States administering mandated territories to place them under the Trusteeship System set up by the United Nations Charter. South Africa refused to give up its Mandate of South West Africa. South Africa applied racist apartheid and "homelands" policies to the Territory of South West Africa and contended that it was not accountable to the United Nations.

In 1950 the International Court of Justice handed down a decision which stated that South Africa continued to have international obligations under the League of Nations Covenant and Mandate. The General Assembly was to have supervision over South Africa's administration of South West Africa. South Africa refused to accept this opinion and opposed any form of United Nations supervision over the territory's affairs. For 15 years the General Assembly sought to negotiate agreement with South Africa. South Africa refused to cooperate or negotiate in good faith.

In 1966 the General Assembly of the United Nations declared that South Africa had failed to fulfil its obligations to South West Africa and had, in fact, worked against the moral and material well-being of the people. The Assembly declared that henceforth South West Africa was under the direct responsibility of the United Nations.

In 1967, the General Assembly established an 11-member Council for South West Africa to administer the territory until independence. In 1968, the General Assembly proclaimed that, in accordance with the wishes of the people, the territory would be known as Namibia. The Council was renamed the Council for Namibia. Namibia became a "unique responsibility" of the United Nations, the only non-self-governing territory for which the United Nations assumed responsibility.

In 1971, the International Court of Justice declared that "the continued presence of South Africa being illegal, South Africa is under obligation to withdraw its administration from Namibia immediately." Instead, South Africa continued its "bantustanization" of the territory following the pattern of the "homelands" it was concurrently establishing in South Africa under its policy of apartheid, its systematic exploitation of the labour and resources of the territory, and its ruthless repression of the struggle of the people for self determination. (next month - SWAPO, the liberation struggle) *sk*

Source: *Namibia: A Unique UN Responsibility*, UN publication, 1983

What's the story behind Namibia? A short history - Part 2 of 2

Today, Namibia's population, settlement patterns and economic development reflect the decades of colonial exploitation and the later, more brutal enforcement of the South African apartheid system. A recent study for the United Nations Institute for Namibia places the population at about 1,250,000 comprised of at least 1,035,000 Africans, 115,000 Coloured (people of mixed descent) and 100,000 whites of European descent. In addition, there are approximately 70,000 personnel of South Africa's illegally occupying armed forces. The whites make up less than 10 percent of the population but occupy the most productive 43 percent of Namibia's land for agriculture and grazing. The African majority has been confined to "homeland" or "bantustans" on the most impoverished 40 percent of the land. On the remaining 17 percent of the land are the vast mineral reserves, copper, uranium and diamonds. The uranium and diamonds are under the control of the South African government. Many black Namibians who cannot eke out a living in the homelands are forced to migrate to the so-called white areas in order to seek gainful employment, a situation like that which exists in South Africa. The white and foreign owned economic enterprises are thereby provided with a plentiful and cheap labor supply.

On April 19, 1960, SWAPO (South West Africa People's Organization) was formed. SWAPO's constitution, adopted in 1976, defines SWAPO. "SWAPO is a national liberation movement rallying together, on the basis of free and voluntary association, all freedom-inspired sons and daughters of the Namibian people. It is the organized political vanguard of the oppressed and exploited people of Namibia. In fulfilling its vanguard role, SWAPO organizes, unites, inspires, orients and leads the broad masses of the working Namibian people in the struggle for national and social liberation. It is thus the expression and embodiment of national unity, of a whole people united and organized in the struggle for total independence and social liberation."

Throughout the 1960's, SWAPO struggled to liberate Namibia from South Africa's illegal occupation of their country, its fragmentation of their land into "bantustans," and its depletion of their natural resources and exploitation of their labor. South Africa responded with ruthless measures of repression beginning with the illegal arrest, deportation and trial in Pretoria of 37 South West Africans in 1967 and the imprisonment in 1968 of Herman Tolvo, the founder of SWAPO. In addition, South Africa extended its apartheid legislation to Namibia, proclaimed three "homelands" as security districts, which, in effect, placed 50 percent of Namibia's population under martial law. South Africa also built up its military presence in the area. Through these, and other repressive measures, South Africa has been able to maintain its illegal hold over Namibia.

In 1973, the General Assembly of the United Nations recognized the national liberation movement of Namibia, SWAPO, as the authentic representative of the Namibian people, and supported the efforts of the movement to strengthen national unity. SWAPO is also recognized as the legitimate representative of the Namibian people by the Organization of African Unity (OAU).

In the face of the South African repression, a military wing of SWAPO was formed - the People's Liberation Army of Namibia (PLAN). Because of South Africa's tightening of the grip on economic and political internal activities of SWAPO, armed liberation struggle has become a major form of SWAPO's campaign to bring about total and genuine independence to the people of Namibia.

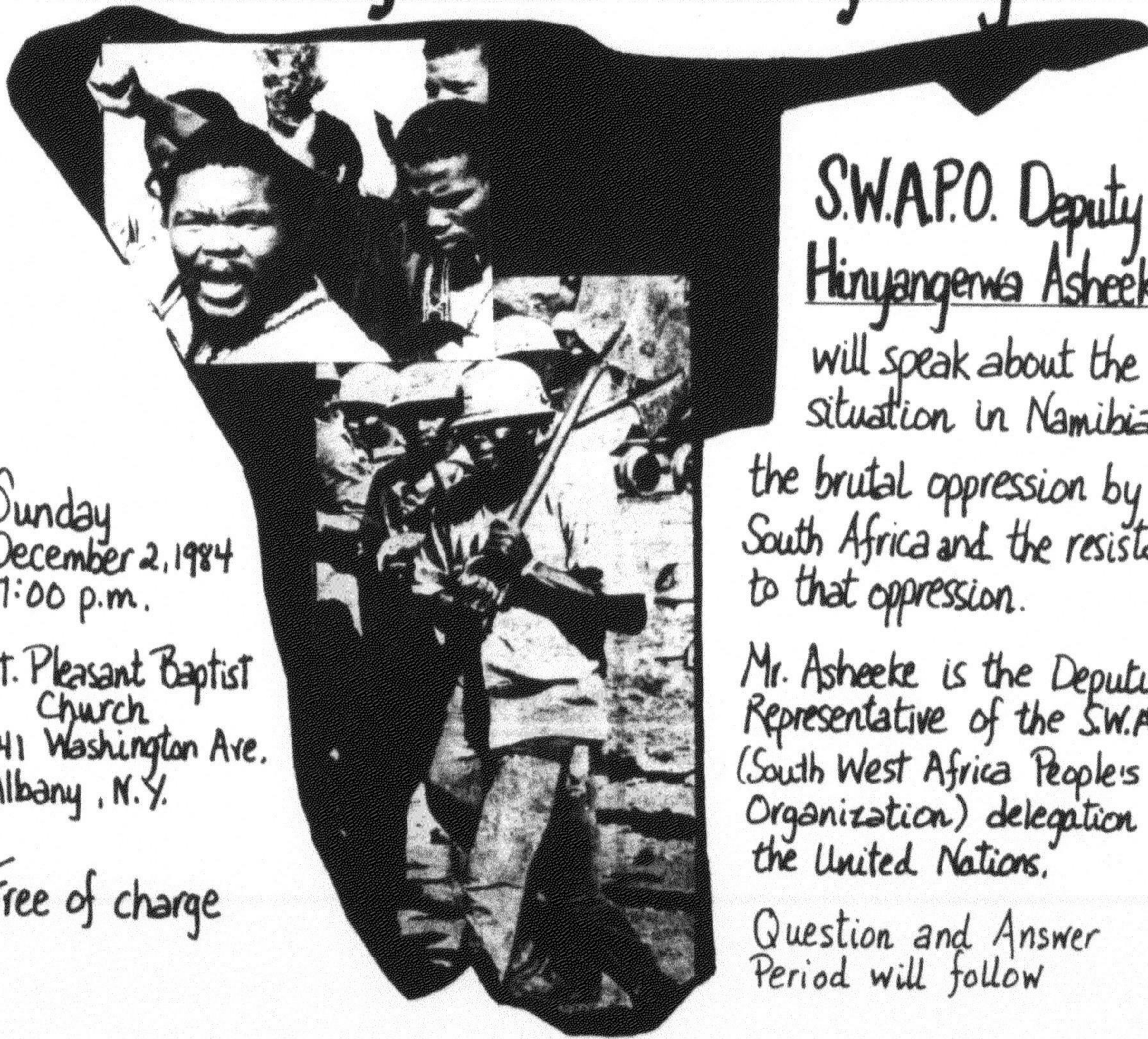
E. Kawola

Adapted from the following sources: Plunder of Namibian Uranium, U.N. publication, 1982, Constitution of the South West Africa People's Organization publication of the SWAPO Department for Publicity and Information, Namibia: A Unique U.N. Responsibility, U.N. Publication, April, 1983.

→ Special Note: The Social Action Center, of which the Capital District Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism is a member, is sponsoring a Walk-a-thon on April 28, 1984. Several members of the Coalition have signed up. If you can join this worthwhile benefit, call SAC 434-4037 for further details.

Namibia:

Resisting South African Tyranny



Sunday
December 2, 1984
7:00 p.m.

Mt. Pleasant Baptist
Church
441 Washington Ave.
Albany, N.Y.

Free of charge

S.W.A.P.O. Deputy
Hinyangerwa Asheeke

will speak about the
situation in Namibia -

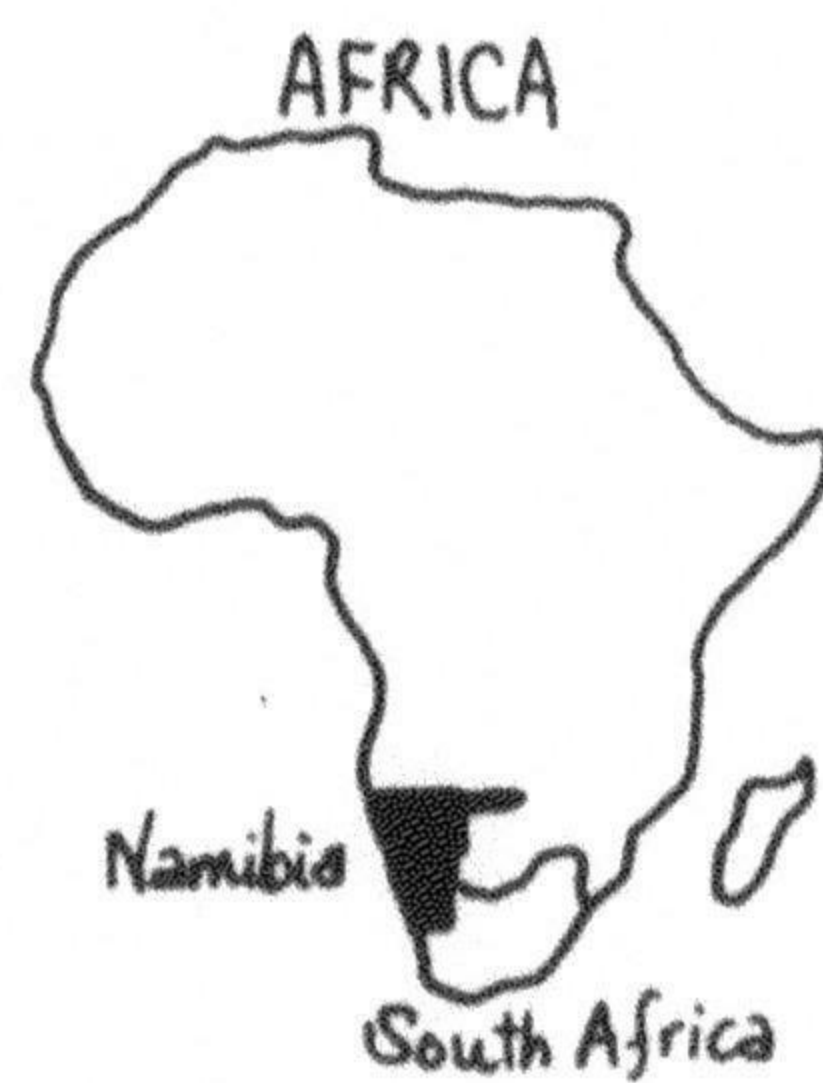
the brutal oppression by
South Africa and the resistance
to that oppression.

Mr. Asheeke is the Deputy
Representative of the S.W.A.P.O.
(South West Africa People's
Organization) delegation to
the United Nations.

Question and Answer
Period will follow

Sponsored by:

The Capital District Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism, Albany, N.Y.
The Minority Student Alliance of Junior College of Albany, N.Y.



SOME BASIC FACTS ABOUT NAMIBIA AND S.W.A.P.O.

Namibia and South Africa are the last two Black African countries still under white minority rule. The government of South Africa, known for its system of racial discrimination (apartheid), occupies its neighbor Namibia as a colony.

South Africa has brought apartheid to Namibia. All of the best land, jobs, education and health care are reserved for the white minority. The Black majority are confined to "homeland" areas on the most impoverished 40 percent of the land. The whites, who make up less than 10 percent of the population, occupy the best agricultural and grazing land.

The South African government directly controls the land on which Namibia's vast reserves of uranium and diamonds are located. Many Black Namibians who cannot eke out a living in the "homelands" are forced to become migrant workers in the so-called white areas at starvation wages - a situation like that which exists for the South African Blacks.

Namibia, once called South West Africa, was colonized by Germany in 1884. The people of Namibia have been fighting for their independence for over one hundred years. After World War I, South West Africa became a League of Nations Mandate under South African administration. Since 1920, South Africa has brutally exploited Namibia's people and resources.

In 1966, the General Assembly of the United Nations declared that South Africa had failed to fulfill its obligations to South West Africa and had, in fact, worked against the moral and material well-being of the people. The Assembly declared that henceforth South West Africa was under the direct responsibility of the United Nations.

South Africa has, however, continued to occupy Namibia, exploiting the labor and resources and ruthlessly repressing the people. Seventy thousand South African occupying forces currently suppress the struggle for liberation of the Namibian people.

WHAT IS SWAPO? In 1960, the people of Namibia formed the South West African People's Organization (SWAPO). SWAPO's Constitution states: "S.W.A.P.O. is a national liberation movement rallying together, on the basis of free and voluntary association, all freedom-inspired sons and daughters of the Namibian people. It is the organized political vanguard of the oppressed and exploited people of Namibia. In fulfilling its vanguard role, S.W.A.P.O. organizes, unites, inspires, orients and leads the broad masses of the working Namibian people in the struggle for national and social liberation.

The United Nations recognizes SWAPO as the representative of the Namibian people and has demanded that South Africa withdraw its troops and allow free elections. South Africa refuses to get out of Namibia and follows the same policies of repression there as in South Africa.

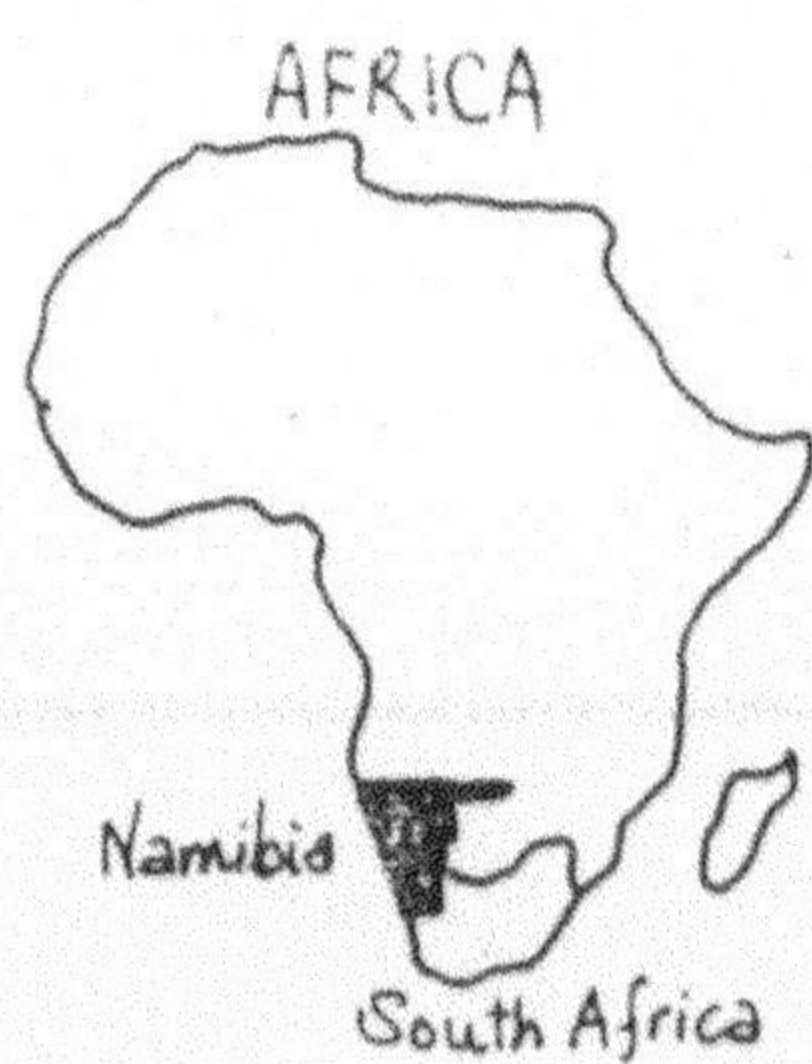
The United States has supported South Africa's white supremacist government by adding extra demands to negotiations for Namibia's freedom and by voting in support of the South African government at the United Nations.

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