

don't think there will ever be a peaceful solution unless you bring the Palestinians and their representative, the PLO, to the table to talk about the situation...

Also, we have to find some way of educating the American people, for they have been led to believe that the Palestinians are nothing but terrorists. They don't know the history or the sufferings of the Palestinian people... I don't know how we educate the American people on that, because the media is controlled by the defense industry and the Reagan Administration; the Israeli lobby is the strongest lobby in the United States. The sooner we are able to encourage the kinds of politicians who have principles, but of course, one has to question the nature of the democracy of our own society, and that becomes a long story...

SWAPO

INTERVIEW WITH SWAPO PRESIDENT SAM NUJOMA



How do you describe the current struggle being waged by SWAPO?

We have declared the year 1986 as the year of general mobilization for final victory. This year alone, our combatants managed to bring down four South African military convoy planes and four helicopters. Of course, there is a news blackout on Namibia, so very little is known about our struggle at present. Actually, our combatants are facing the occupying troops daily and inflicting heavy casualties on their forces. That is the military situation...

In Namibia, we were not allowed to hold public meetings for the past five or six years. But early this year, our people defied this rule and called a meeting without the consent of the authorities. The meeting went on, but later the organizers were picked up and brought before a court of law. The judge said that they cannot go on preventing SWAPO from holding meetings, whereas the other so-called parties are allowed to hold meetings, for then we would have no other alternative but to continue with the armed struggle. As a result of this court decision, our people mounted a challenge. They called a meeting July 27th, which was attended by the overwhelming majority, including whites. The attendance was estimated at 25-30,000. From that time, our people have continued to hold meetings. The security police no longer interfere. We hope this will continue.

We very much appreciate the support we receive from the international community. At the moment there is nothing going on concerning the international political effort to find a solution, because the Reagan Administration introduced the so-called linkage, requiring that the Cuban internationalist

troops be withdrawn from Angola before Namibia can be decolonized. We reject this, because the two issues cannot be linked. The Cuban troops are in Angola on the invitation of the legitimate government there and can only be withdrawn through an agreement by the two sovereign states (Cuba and Angola). Namibia has been on the agenda of the international community for the past forty years. It is the responsibility of the international community to see to it that resolution 435 is implemented. Now we are appealing to the international community to condemn the US administration for introducing this irrelevant issue of linkage.

'Israel' supports the apartheid regime in South Africa. How do you see these relations?

It is quite surprising that there is a good relationship between Israel and South Africa today, because it is a known fact that during the second world war, the party that today rules South Africa was on the side of the fascists in Germany. These are the people who were eliminating the Jews, but today the former Nazis in South Africa are cooperating with the Israeli regime. We condemn this alliance between the two, because the Israelis are fighting the Palestinian people, and want to subjugate them, while the apartheid regime wants to subjugate the black people in South Africa and Namibia. The two are cooperating in this field, and I think it is high time for the PLO and SWAPO to also strengthen our ties.

How do you evaluate the US and Western European sanctions against South Africa? How will this affect your struggle?

If sanctions are imposed by all the freedom-loving countries in the world today, I am sure this would mean making headway with the struggle in both Namibia and South Africa. However, the western European countries, particularly Britain and the Federal Republic of Germany, are reluctant to impose comprehensive, mandatory sanctions against South Africa, because of their own economic interests. We look at this as racism because when it comes to their own interests, they impose sanctions. For example, Britain imposed sanctions against Argentina, but today Thatcher says that economic sanctions don't work when it is a question of South Africa. We, struggling here, feel this as racism. If one white man is killed, you can hear the whole world condemn that. Yet if hundreds of blacks or Arabs are killed, they don't care. Perhaps they assume all these are just like flies!

