

1 - Resolutions 435 - Its definitions
with practical emphasis on the role
of Aq and the SR, and ~~the~~ repeal
of discriminatory laws, as discussed
by Martti Ahtisaari &
Cedric Thornberry

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Opening theme

NARR: The following is presented by the Information Service of UNTAG. UNTAG, responsible for the largest decolonization operation ever mounted by the United Nations.

Opening theme

NARR: Today, the deliberations that delayed the implementation of 435. Shortly before April 1 1989, inter-governmental debate in the highest bodies of the United Nations: the Security Council and the General Assembly - resulted in the reduction of the UNTAG budget to \$416 million and the size of the military from 7,500 to 4,650 troops. But prior to this, other factors would prevent implementation of 435 for eleven years. Martti Ahtisaari, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, explains:

Cut 1
AHTISAARI
untag radio int. The major holdup was throughout these years that there was no political will to go forward - we cleared all the practical issues by 1983, and then we were held back. In the final analysis - the tripartite process facilitated the implementation and therefore we are happy to be here finally. (21")

NARR: The tripartite group, comprising South Africa, Cuba and Angola, resolved that Cuban troops should withdraw from Angola by 1991. After this, it seemed that 435 would get the green light. However, there were to be several obstacles: the first, initiated mainly by the Security Council's permanent members - the United States, the United Kingdom, China, France and the Soviet Union. The Security Council is the highest authority in the United Nations and the five permanent members each have the power of veto. Cedric Thornberry, Director of the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General:

Cut 2
THORNBERRY There was a desire on their part to limit the cost of UNTAG. Now there is no question that the major element of cost in UNTAG is the military. And the five permanent members decided that in fact it wasn't necessary from their assessment of the situation, for UNTAG to come in with so many troops and the kind of logistical tail attached to it that in fact was attached to it - the original proposal.

NARR: It would be mostly the developing or the so-called third world countries of the General Assembly - where each nation has one vote - that would object to the reduction in the budget.

Cut 3
THORNBERRY

And that was resisted by very many other governments from the non-aligned movement, who regarded that attempt to cut UNTAG's troop size as a sign of weakness and something that would basically weaken the international role in this territory and would enable SA - on which much suspicion is felt - that would enable SA to do as it pleased in the territory without effective supervision.

NARR; The due date of implementation was nearing and the Secretary-General pointed out to a number of governments that it would be difficult at that stage to maintain the date of April 1. When a new budget was finally approved, another hitch would appear.

Tawin Day DeLuekhan

United Nations

Cut 4
THORNBERRY

The Fifth Committee of the General Assembly - which is the one which deals with budgetary questions - was very much concerned about certain aspects of it, in particular questions to do with purchase from South Africa and the question of sanctions, and it spent a long time discussing aspects of that, until a solution was finally found.

NARR; It was decided that UNTAG would purchase goods and services from local sources of supply in southern Africa, whenever these were more economical than sources of supply elsewhere. The UNTAG operation was fully operational by mid-May.

Closing Theme

NARR; That was a presentation by the Information Service of UNTAG. If you have any comments or queries, please write to UNTAG, RADIO PROGRAMMES, PRIVATE BAG 13329, WINDHOEK. Until next time, this is Lena Yacoumopoulou.

Closing theme