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19th August 1993

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Negotiating Council
Multi-Party Negotiation Process
World Trade Centre
JOHANNESBURG

Chairperson,

Further to my letter dated 16th August 1993 addressed to the previous Chairperson, it is my singular honour and privilege to, on behalf of the Namibian Government and people, convey to all the distinguished members of the Multi-Party Negotiating Council our heartfelt thanks and indeed a sense of immense indebtedness of us all for your historic and timely decision on the transfer and reintegration of Walvis Bay and the Off-Shore Islands into Namibia.

This extraordinary act of statesmanship and fair play, representing, as it does, the collective resolve and political wisdom of the participants, has earned both your esteemed Council and no less the South African Government itself renewed goodwill and respectability in the eyes of the Namibian people and the global community at large.

At the end of your admittedly difficult and, perhaps at times, even acrimonious deliberations, you came through as women and men of vision and determination to resolve the dispute, in the service of the future of your own country as well as the rest of the sub-region, especially the consolidation of Namibia's independence.

Let me once again wish your Council and each and everyone of the constituent delegations an expeditious and amicable conclusion of your important negotiations for a democratic, non-racial and united South Africa.

In this context, let me assure you, my distinguished neighbours, of Namibia's wholehearted expectation that the existing bonds of history and common outlook towards further promoting mutually beneficial co-operation between our two countries and peoples must continue to grow from strength to strength now and in the future.

Sincerely yours

THEO-BEN GURIRAB, MP

MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS