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THE SITUATION CONCERNING WESTERN SAHARA

Report of the Secretary-General

CONTENTS

	<u>Paragraphs</u>	<u>Page</u>
GENERAL INTRODUCTION	1 - 3	4
Part I: Proposals by the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the current Chairman of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity aimed at a settlement of the question of Western Sahara accepted in principle by the parties on 30 August 1988	4 - 42	5
I. INTRODUCTION	4 - 6	5
II. ROLE OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL	7	5
III. MANDATE AND FUNCTIONS OF THE SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL	8 - 10	5
IV. CEASE-FIRE	11 - 22	6
A. Cease-fire declaration	11	6
B. Date and procedures for the cease-fire	12 - 22	6
V. REFERENDUM	23 - 42	9
A. Census of the Saharan population	24 - 30	9
B. Procedures for the referendum	31 - 42	10

CONTENTS (continued)

	<u>Paragraphs</u>	<u>Page</u>
Part II: Implementation plan proposed by the Secretary-General pursuant to Security Council resolution 621 (1988) of 20 September 1988	43 - 85	13
I. INTRODUCTION	43 - 46	13
II. MAIN ELEMENTS OF THE IMPLEMENTATION PLAN	47	14
III. THE SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE AND THE UNITED NATIONS MISSION FOR THE REFERENDUM IN WESTERN SAHARA	48 - 49	15
IV. TRANSITIONAL PERIOD	50	15
V. CEASE-FIRE	51 - 53	16
VI. MOROCCAN MILITARY PRESENCE	54	16
VII. CONFINEMENT OF EACH PARTY'S COMBATANTS TO AGREED LOCATIONS	55 - 57	16
VIII. ORGANIZATION AND CONDUCT OF THE REFERENDUM	58 - 66	17
A. Identification Commission	60	18
B. Identification and registration of voters	61 - 62	18
C. Referendum Commission	63	19
D. Referendum campaign	64	19
E. Referendum	65 - 66	19
IX. OTHER RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE DURING THE TRANSITIONAL PERIOD	67 - 69	20
X. RELEASE OF POLITICAL PRISONERS AND SUSPENSION OF LAWS WHICH MIGHT IMPEDE A FREE AND FAIR REFERENDUM	70 - 71	21
XI. RETURN OF REFUGEES, OTHER WESTERN SAHARANS AND MEMBERS OF FRENTE POLISARIO ENTITLED TO VOTE	72 - 74	21
XII. PROCLAMATION OF THE REFERENDUM RESULTS	75 - 76	22

S/21360
English
Page 3

CONTENTS (continued) -

	<u>Paragraphs</u>	<u>Page</u>
XIII. COMPOSITION AND TASKS OF THE UNITED NATIONS MISSION FOR THE REFERENDUM IN WESTERN SAHARA	77 - 82	22
A. Civilian Unit	78	22
B. Security Unit	79	23
C. Military Unit	81 - 82	23
XIV. OBSERVATIONS	83 - 85	24

S/21360
English
Page 4

GENERAL INTRODUCTION

1. On 11 August 1988, the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Special Envoy of the then Chairman of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) presented, in separate meetings, to the parties to the conflict in Western Sahara, namely Morocco and the Frente Popular para la Liberación de Saguia el-Hamra y de Río de Oro (Frente POLISARIO), a document ("the settlement proposals") containing proposals for a just and definitive solution of the question of Western Sahara in conformity with General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) by means of a cease-fire and the holding of a referendum without military or administrative constraints to enable the people of Western Sahara, in the exercise of their right to self-determination, to choose between independence and integration with Morocco.

2. On 30 August 1988, in separate meetings, the representatives of each of the two parties, while making comments and observations, informed the Secretary-General of their agreement in principle to the settlement proposals. On 20 September 1988 the Security Council was informed of this fact by the Secretary-General, who provided the Council with an outline of the settlement proposals. The Council thereupon adopted resolution 621 (1988) of 20 September 1988, authorizing the Secretary-General to appoint a special representative for Western Sahara and requesting him to transmit to it as soon as possible a report on the holding of a referendum for self-determination of the people of Western Sahara and on ways and means to ensure the organization and supervision of such a referendum by the United Nations in co-operation with OAU.

3. The present report is divided into two parts:

(a) Part I contains the full text of the settlement proposals as accepted in principle by the parties on 30 August 1988. The Secretary-General believes that it would be useful for the Council to have the full text available to it at this stage, thus supplementing the outline he had provided to the Council in 1988;

(b) Part II contains a report on developments since September 1988 and it contains the Secretary-General's implementation plan for giving effect to the settlement proposals, taking account of developments since their acceptance in principle by the parties. The implementation plan is submitted to the Council pursuant to its request contained in resolution 621 (1988).

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