



30 December 2024

To: Jack, Chip, Jeff, Amy, and the entire Carter family
The Government and people of the United States of America

SUBJECT: MESSAGE OF CONDOLENCES, ON THE OCCASION OF THE PASSING OF FORMER PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, MR. JAMES EARL "JIMMY" CARTER, JR

Dear Jack, Chip, Jeff, Amy, and the entire Carter family, the Government and people of the United States of America.

It was with great sadness that I learned of the passing of the 39th President of the United States of America, Mr. James Earl "Jimmy" Carter, Jr on 29 December 2024, at the age of 100 years.

Former President Jimmy Carter worked tirelessly for a better world. He was guided by a deep and abiding faith in humanity and his leadership contributed significantly to world peace and security. He was a man of deeply held convictions and dignified the office of the President of the United States of America when he played a key role in conflict mediation, election monitoring, the promotion of democracy, and disease prevention and eradication. These and other efforts earned him the Nobel Peace Prize in 2002.

Throughout his life, President Carter embodied integrity, compassion, and a commitment to advancing the freedom, security, and welfare of others as witnessed in his foreign policy, including the landmark Camp David Accords, the SALT II Treaty and the Panama Canal Treaties.

President Carter also showed us what can be achieved through tireless and principled diplomacy. We in Namibia, particularly remember him when he came to power in January 1977 and inherited the legacy and cold war game plan for Southern Africa of Henry Alfred Kissinger, who served as United States Secretary of State from 1973 to 1977 and National Security Advisor from 1969 to 1975, in the presidential administrations of Richard Nixon and Gerald Ford. The Carter Administration that time also had to contend with the right-wing Republican Leadership in Congress, who were friends of the apartheid regime, supporters of Jonas Savimbi of UNITA in Angola as well as the various puppet groups in Namibia.

Mr Cyrus Vance, Carter's US Secretary of State, recruited able and dedicated assistants such as Andrew Young, Richard Morse and Donald McHenry, among others. Don McHenry, as he was commonly known, became the principal negotiator, policy strategist and undisputed leader of the Western Contact Group while it was left to Ambassador Andrew Young to initiate political contacts on 'exploratory talks' with relevant African interlocutors at the UN, including with SWAPO office in New York. The basis of their approach towards Namibia was Security Council Resolution 385 of January 1976.

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Mr Vance, unlike his predecessor, Dr. Kissinger, was more business-like and reassuring and not a Cold War ‘hawk’ who considered the former Soviet Union’s relations with certain African countries as being part of its broad strategic design. The Carter Administration came in with a firm conviction that Namibia’s Independence was achievable and believed in an end to colonial oppression and to bring about democracy and reconciliation between black and white communities in the country.

Of course, Dr. Chester Crocker later transformed this strategy into an ideology rooted in the ruthless ‘constructive engagement’ policy with the racist regime of Pretoria in a sugar-coated diabolical scheme which was sold to some African leaders who bought it, lock, stock and barrel.

Regardless of the above, the Western Contact Group, through the Carter Administration, managed to secure the adoption of the UN Security Council Resolution 435 on 29 September 1978 that led to the Independence of Namibia.

Thus, Carter’s efforts are an important reminder of what is possible, especially amidst renewed conflicts in the world. His efforts to leave behind a better world and his legacy as a peacemaker and a humanitarian will endure.

As the family comes to terms with this sad moment of the dark cloud hovering around you, allow me on behalf of the Veterans of our National Liberation Struggle, my family and indeed on my own behalf, to convey our deepest condolences and heartfelt sympathies to the Carter family, the Government and people of the United States of America for this irreparable loss.

It is my sincere wish that we may all be comforted and granted fortitude during this difficult time of mourning.

MAY THE SOUL OF MR. JAMES EARL “JIMMY” CARTER, JR REST PEACEFULLY IN ETERNITY.



Sam Nujoma
FOUNDING PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA