

~~SECRET/NOFORN/NOCONTRACT/ORCON~~

CO 003

INR WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS
OF DEVELOPMENTS IN HUMAN RIGHTS

Department of State, A/GIS/IPS/SRP

Change to _____
() Release (X) Excise () Deny () Declassify
Exemptions b () (X) E.O. 13526 25x (1)(6) ()
Declassify after _____
With concurrence of: _____
_____ obtained _____ not obt.
Date _____
IPS by AH Date 5-13-16

RELEASE IN FULL

55, May 10, 1978
ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)
U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS
AFRICA Margaret P. Grafeld, Director
() Release (X) Excise () Deny
Exemption(s): BL, NR
Declassify: (X) In Part () In Full
(X) Classify as C () Extend as () Downgrade to
Date 5/16/01 Declassify on _____ Reason 25X.1

Namibia

Rights Update (INR Review and Analysis). A number of new measures modifying the severely restrictive laws in force in Namibia have been adopted as part of the transition to independence. The country, however, still remains under an extensive system of repressive laws and regulations.

On April 18, the South African Administrator General for Namibia issued a proclamation under which he assumed the broad powers of detention without trial formerly exercised directly by the South African administration under the South African Terrorism and Internal Security Acts. Detainees, however, are now given the possibility for appeal to a review committee, medical attention, assurance of notification of kin, and "as far as possible" the reasons for their detention. There appears to be no plan to review cases of persons already detained. Twelve SWAPO members, including three top leaders, were incarcerated under the new measure on April 24.

Other changes that have provided some real progress in human rights include the repeal of the Immorality Proclamation and the Mixed Marriages Ordinance legalizing the considerable interracial mixing that is more prevalent in Namibia than in South Africa. With the abolition of the "pass laws" in October, Africans are no longer subject to involuntary removal from urban areas or to travel restrictions (except in "the operational area"). The contract labor system, however, still remains in force, and officials may decide whether or not an African can work in the white area. The homelands and urban authorities retain authority to impose their own pass requirements, and the relegation of Africans to segregated residential areas continues.

(CONFIDENTIAL)

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