

## **FORGED NAMIBIAN DOCUMENT**

The Southern African Catholic Bishops' Conference noted in 1988 that on December 31 1987 a false document was issued in the name of the peace and war committee, on the war in Namibia. The forged document was based on a confidential working document of the Southern African Catholic Bishops' Conference.

The forged document referred to SWAPO as a communist and terrorist force, claimed that South Africa has greater legitimacy and authority in Namibia than SWAPO, states that the Namibian people seem to be more terrified of SWAPO than of the security forces and concludes by stating that "the Bishops' Conference and the Church must be seen to be humble to alter its findings when and where necessary."

All these statements do not in any way reflect the thinking or views of the Southern African Catholic Bishops' Conference. The bishops publicly cancelled the document and dissociated themselves from it. The real document in no way contradicted the findings of the 1981 Namibia Report (as was stated in the forged document). The bishops stand by their previous statements on the war in Namibia and South Africa's presence there.

Clearly the forged document was produced to serve the interests of individuals or groups who disagree with the Catholic bishops' stand.