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# Unlikely supporters of non-proliferation: Apartheid South Africa's impact on the NPT and the African-wide Nuclear Weapons Free Zone, 1988-91

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*The Neutrals and the Bomb*

# Structure

1) Introduction

2) End of the Cold War in the region & NPT accession, 1988-91:

- summary of the (secret) negotiations
- key characteristics of South African NPT adherence

3) Conclusion

# Timeline: 1987-1991

- PW Botha informed the IAEA General Conference that South Africa is willing to discuss NPT accession

- “mutually hurting military stalemate” at Quito Cuanavale between Cuba, Angola and SA

↑  
1987

- 2nd round of talks between South Africa and the NPT Depository Powers

- FW de Klerk follows PW Botha as President (September)

↑  
1989

- South Africa signs INFCIRC 153 Safeguards Agreement (September)

- South Africa signs NPT (July)

- 4th Round of talks between South Africa and the NPT Depository Powers

↑  
1991

1988

↓  
- 1st round of talks between South Africans and NPT Depository States

- Angola-Namibia Accords (22 December 1988)

1990

↓  
- Nelson Mandela released and enrichment plant shut down

- 3rd Round of talks between South Africa and the NPT Depository Powers





# The three main points:

- Shift from bilateral to multilateral negotiations towards end of Cold War
- Domestic political imperatives influenced the SA Government's position on NPT accession and the conclusion of an IAEA safeguards agreement
- SA Government tried to get something in return for Treaty signature: from resumed technological cooperation to parallel NPT accession by FLS to create a regional and ultimately a continent-wide NWFZ

# Conclusion

Country	Date of NPT signature/deposition
Botswana	18 April 1969
Swaziland	11 December 1969
Lesotho	20 May 1970
Malawi	18 February 1986
Mozambique	4 September 1990
Zambia	15 May 1991
Tanzania	31 May 1991
<b>South Africa</b>	<b>10 July 1991</b>
Zimbabwe	26 September 1991
Namibia	2 October 1992
Angola	14 October 1996

→ 6/7 states in the region acceded to the treaty between 1990-92

Thank  
you!

