

# 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 Conferencce 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)

**1** 

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



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

Since the De Klerk Government had come to power during 1989, it had been moving at breakneck speed on the domestic reform programme. Along this road the government had picked up a large number of debits, which had the effect of eroding its domestic power base. The nuclear issue is perceived domestically to relate to national security and it would therefore be political suicide for the President to take on another controversial domestic political issue at the present time. The DDG said that the SP felt that nothing tangible had been forthcoming from foreign governments and that he is close to reaching the threshold of what voters will tolerate.



# 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
South Africa	10 July 1991
Zimbabwe	26 September 1991
Namibia	2 October 1992
Angola	14 October 1996

→ b// states in the region acceded to the between 1990-92

# Thank vou!



