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The Rise of the Republic of Namibia in 1990.

The international aspect.

Niepodległość Republiki Namibii w 1990 r. Aspekt międzynarodowy.

Summary

Republic of Namibia is one of the youngest country in Africa. It achieved its independence in 1990 after 25 years of war and even longer diplomatic activities.

The man who named the country was Mburuma Kerina. Earlier, the territory between Kunene and Oranje rivers had been known as South West Africa. In 1970s Namibians from the largest party, South West Africa People's Organisation, made decision that their homeland should have an unique name. The name „Namibia” is combination of two words – symbols: Namib, which is name of a desert situated in the East part of the territory, and namibiansim, which means specific kind of Namibian nationalism which was born into opposition to South Africa's rule of the country.

The main goal of my dissertation is present a way to independence of Namibia in the light of the international policy. Primarily, I focus on the events of the cold war and relations between United States, Soviet Union, Cuba and South Africa as crucial players in conflicts in Southern Africa. To get to know the causes which had helped Namibia to declare independence, I try to answer some fundamental questions:

- Which factors – military or diplomatic – was key for Namibia to achieve the independence?
- How did a cold war influence on Namibia's territory?
- What was a significance of civil war in Angola for Namibian people and their struggle?
- What did SWAPO do during negotiating process and on the forum of the United Nations?
- How important was „Question of Namibia” as one of the long-standing questions in the United Nations?

In my dissertation I used many sources. Among them were sources finding in the National Archives in London and in the Archive of Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs in

Warsaw. I also used archive materials of US Department of State and CIA available in the Internet archives thanks to Freedom of Information Act. Important sources were the United Nations resolutions, letters and other materials likewise. Furthermore, many interesting monographs and articles I found in the British Library in London and in the library of the Africke Informacni Centrum of the Humanitas Afrika Foundation in Praha.

The dissertation has chronological – problem construction. It is divided into six chapters.

First chapter is entitled „South-West Africa - an outline of history until 1945” and tells about history of the territory of Namibia from the age of geographical discoveries to the World War II. Until the last years of 19th century the only known area of Namibia was its coast. In 1878 first Germans came to Namibia. It was a beginning of a colonisation this territory. In 1904 Namibian Africans, Hereros and Namas have begun a war against aggressive German policy toward their people. During the war Germans committed first genocide in 20th century and murdered tens thousand people on the Omaheke desert and in concentration camps. In 1915 South Africa had taken over the country and have been governing him to 1990.

Chapter Two „South-West Africa under South Africa rule, 1945-1966” tells about Pretoria apartheid policy and attempts to get an international recognize of her govern of South West Africa. Moreover I tell about first Namibian organisations and parties established in 50s of 20th century, especially international help for them.

Third chapter „Independence war of Namibia as international issue, 1966-1988” tells how independence war of Namibians linked to the civil war in Angola. SWAPO stood by the Angolan govern party, MPLA which had gotten a military and finance help from Cuba and Soviet Union. MPLA opponent was UNITA which was support by United States and South Africa. By that means a local conflict in Southern Africa became one of a proxy war and engaged many countries around the world. Important part of this chapter is Cubans participating in the civil war in Angola and their „conflict” with Soviets how war should be lead.

Fourth chapter is entitled „The United Nations towards a Question of Namibia, 1966-1988”. It tells about diplomatic activities of some players engaged in war in Southern Africa: SWAPO, „front line states”, „contact group”, Non-Aligned Movement and UN Secretary General, the General Assembly and Security Council.

In the chapter five „Towards the end of the conflict and state independence, 1988-1989” I write about last months of diplomatic process before implementation of the

Settlement Plan in Namibia by UNTAG (UN mission for Namibia) and proclamation of independence. At that time, among crucial issues were cooperation between United States and Soviet Union on the Southern Africa ground and first Tripartite and (later) Quadripartite talks between Washington, Pretoria, Luanda and Havana. Long negotiations let sign agreements in Brazzavile (13.12.1988) and New York (22.12.1988) what finished international aspect of the war. Soon, South Africa and Cubans withdrew their armies from Angola.

The implementation of independence process in Namibia under United Nations patronage could begin. In November 1989 first free election took place in Namibia. The winner was SWAPO. Sam Nujoma was elected as first president of the country.

Chapter six „Hopes fulfilled” tells about the day of proclamation of the independence, 21 March 1990. I write also about the most important directions of Namibia’s international policy during first years as sovereign country.

The analysis of available sources provide many important conclusions. Independence of Namibia were possible thanks to favourable international situation, the end of the international clash in Angola and – last but not least – a huge engagement of SWAPO and many countries around the world on the forum of the United Nations.

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