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**United Nations Oral History
on Namibia**

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Private Accession A. 1058 United Nations Oral History on Namibia

Introduction

The United Nations, in cooperation with Yale University, embarked on an oral history project about the history of the UN. This included United Nations action with regard to Namibia, in particular the involvement in the transition to independence. Sixteen interviews with key players in this process were conducted in 1998 – 1999.

The oral interviews as well as the transcriptions are available at Yale University and on the website of the United Nations' Dag Hammarskjöld Library, New York.

This accession consists of downloads of the digital transcriptions, which can be accessed on the local server, and printouts of the texts. The oral recordings are not available at the National Archives, and can only be accessed online via the Dag Hammarskjöld Library.

Researchers should take note that the transcriptions frequently contain misspellings of personal names and place names. No effort from the side of the National Archives has been made to correct the spelling.

This finding aid provides a list of the interviews, as well as biographical and content information as available from the Dag Hammarskjöld Library.

W. Hillebrecht, October 2017

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1.

Interview with Ismat Steiner by James S. Sutterlin

Mr. Ismat Steiner (Tanzania,) was one of the first United Nations Representatives to arrive in Namibia during its transition to independence. He served as the head of the UN's office in the Otjiwarongo region. Prior to Mr. Steiner's posting in Namibia, he worked in the Department of Political and Security Council Affairs (DPA) and in the Law of the Sea Department, where he was involved in the conference that negotiated the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. He became the Director of the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea in 1998.

In this interview, conducted on 16 May 1998, Mr. Steiner shared his experience and insights as a United Nations regional representative in Namibia during the country's transition to independence.

Author: [Steiner, Ismat](#) - [Sutterlin, James S.](#) - [Yale University \(New Haven, Conn.\)](#)

Date: 1998-05-16

Subject

[UN. Security Council](#) - [SWAPO](#) - [UNHCR](#) - [SWAPOL](#) - [UN. General Assembly](#) - [UN Transition Assistance Group](#) - [ELECTIONS](#) - [APARTHEID](#) - [NAMIBIA QUESTION](#) - [NAMIBIAN REFUGEES](#) - [ORAL HISTORY](#) - [Ahtisaari, Martti](#) - [Thornbury, Cedric](#)

2.

Interview with Theo-Ben Gurirab by Jean Krasno

Former Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Namibia, Dr. Theo-Ben Gurirab (Namibia, 1939 –) has been the Speaker of the National Assembly of Namibia since 2005. Regarded as one of the founding fathers of the Republic, Dr. Gurirab was also a Member of Parliament, a member of the South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO) Central Committee and Politburo. A seasoned diplomat and negotiator, Dr. Gurirab served for 14 years as SWAPO's Chief Representative to the United Nations, and later, as its Permanent Observer, from 1972 to 1986. From 1986 to 1990, he was SWAPO's Secretary for Foreign Affairs. Throughout these years, he played a major part in negotiations leading to Namibia's independence. Elected in 1989 to Namibia's Constituent Assembly—which became the country's first National Assembly in 1990, Dr. Gurirab was a key drafter of the country's Constitution. He became Foreign Minister at Namibia's independence in 1990, a post he held until he was appointed Prime Minister in 2002. During his tenure as Foreign Minister, Dr. Gurirab was elected as the President of the United Nations fifty fourth General Assembly on 14 September 1999. He served that position until September 2000.

Serving as the President of the General Assembly at the time of the interview on 3 November 1999, Dr. Gurirab discusses his involvement with SWAPO and the United Nations, as well as the road to Namibia's independence and Security Council resolution 432 (1978)(S/RES/432(1978)).

Author: [Gurirab, Theo-Ben](#) - [Krasno, Jean E.](#) - [Yale University \(New Haven, Conn.\)](#)

Date: 1999-11-03

Subject

[UN. General Assembly](#) - [UN. Security Council](#) - [UN. Security Council \(31st year : 1976\)](#) - [UN. Security Council \(33rd year : 1978\)](#) - [SWAPO](#) - [UN Council for Namibia](#) - [UN Transition Assistance Group](#) - [UNCIVPOL](#) - [UN. Economic and Social Council](#) - [OAU](#) - [PLO](#) - [South West Africa National Union](#) - [Unesco](#) - [UNDP](#) - [South African Defence Force](#) - [ELECTIONS](#) - [NAMIBIA QUESTION](#) - [ORAL HISTORY](#) - [INDEPENDENCE](#) - [NATIONAL LIBERATION MOVEMENTS](#) - [ANTI-APARTHEID MOVEMENTS](#) - [APARTHEID](#) - [NEGOTIATION](#) - [Geingob, Hage](#) –

3.

Interview with Dr. Mosé Penaani Tjitendero by Jean Krasno

As one of the lead activists for Namibian Independence, Dr. Mosé Penaani Tjitendero (Namibia, 1943 – 2006) became a member of the South West African People's Organization (SWAPO) Central Committee in 1981. When Namibia won independence on 21 March 1990, he became the Speaker of the National Assembly of Namibia and held that position until his retirement 2004. Heavily involved with his home country's road to independence, Dr. Tjitendero was involved in the preparation for Security Council Resolution 435, which ultimately led to Namibia's independence, and the setup of the United Nations Institute for Namibia, a training institute for middle-level public administrators. Dr. Tjitendero discusses these experiences in this interview, conducted on 10 March 1999, while he was still serving as Speaker. He shares his thoughts about the first elections, apartheid in Namibia and the role that the United Nations Transition Assistance Group (UNTAG) played in independence.

Author: [Tjitendero, Mose P.](#) - [Krasno, Jean E.](#) - [Yale University \(New Haven, Conn.\)](#)

Date: 1999-03-10

Subject

[UN. Security Council](#) - [African Union](#) - [South West Africa National Union](#) - [SWAPO](#) - [SWAPOL](#) - [UN Transition Assistance Group](#) - [ELECTIONS](#) - [APARTHEID](#) - [NAMIBIA QUESTION](#) - [ORAL HISTORY](#)

4.

Interview with Peter Katjavivi by Jean Krasno

At an early age, Peter Katjavivi (Namibia, 1941 –) became involved with Namibian independence from South Africa. He left Namibia in 1962 and worked for the South-West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO) while continuing his education. In 1968, he became the

SWAPO Deputy Representative in Tanzania. The same year, he opened a SWAPO Office and became the Chief Representative in London. Mr. Katjavivi became the SWAPO Secretary for Legal and Economic Affairs in 1969. In 1988, watching the independence of his home country unfold from abroad, he was recruited by the United Nations to sensitize and educate United Nations Transition Assistant Group (UNTAG) members on the political and cultural environment of Namibia. From 1993 to 1997, he was a member of the Executive Board of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). In 2002, he was appointed his country's Ambassador to Belgium and the European Union, and in 2006, became the Ambassador to Germany.

Serving as the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Namibia at the time of the interview, on 14 December 1999, Mr. Katjavivi shares his personal accounts of his involvement in SWAPO during Namibia's independence and evaluates United Nations assistance in that process.

Author: [Katjavivi, Peter H.](#) - [Krasno, Jean E.](#) - [Yale University \(New Haven, Conn.\)](#)

Date: 1999-12-14

Subject

[UN. Security Council](#) - [UN. Security Council \(33rd year : 1978\)](#) - [SWAPO](#) - [OAU](#) - [Zimbabwe African National Union](#) - [UN Transition Assistance Group](#) - [African National Congress of South Africa](#) - [South West Africa National Union](#) - [Unesco](#) - [ELECTIONS](#) - [PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS](#) - [NAMIBIA QUESTION](#) - [ORAL HISTORY](#) - [INDEPENDENCE](#) - [ELECTION VERIFICATION](#) - [CONSTITUTIONS](#) - [APARTHEID](#) - [NATIONAL LIBERATION MOVEMENTS](#) - [POLITICAL PARTIES](#) - [Nujoma, Sam](#) - [Ahtisaari, Martti](#)

5.

Interview with Legwaila Joseph Legwaila by Jean Krasno

After working as a school teacher in Botswana, Legwaila Joseph Legwaila (Botswana, 1937 –) started his diplomatic career by working in the Botswana presidency. In 1980, he was appointed as Botswana's Ambassador to the United Nations. Thereafter, he was the Vice-President of the United Nations General Assembly for three sessions, 1981, 1987 and 1991. Mr. Legwaila was Botswana's representative in the Security Council and presided in February 1995 and March 1996 as President. From 1981 to 2001, he served as Ambassador to Cuba and was Consul General in Jamaica from 1982 to 2001. From 1989 to 1990, Mr. Legwaila served as Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General in Namibia. Additionally, he worked as Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) for South Africa and as Special Envoy of the Chairman of the Frontline States to Lesotho. Prior to his appointment as Special Adviser on Africa in May 2006, Mr. Legwaila served as the Secretary-General's Special Representative for the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE).

Namibia's path to independence has been considered by some as a successful one, although it was not an easy road. In 1989, Mr. Legwaila was appointed by Secretary-General Pérez de Cuéllar to be the Deputy Special Representative in Namibia, in an effort to have a representative from the area and who was familiar with the internal politics of the country. In these interviews, conducted on 10 February 1999 and 11 May 1999, Mr. Legwaila shares his experiences as

Deputy Special Representative, delving into the history behind Namibia's independence, his appointment and the tense climate surrounding the elections.

Author: [Legwaila, Legwaila Joseph](#) - [Krasno, Jean E.](#) - [Yale University \(New Haven, Conn.\)](#)

Date: 1999-02-10

Subject

[UN Transition Assistance Group](#) - [UN. Security Council \(33rd year : 1978\)](#) - [UN. Special Representative for Namibia](#) - [SWAPO](#) - [SWAPOL](#) - [UN. Security Council](#) - [African National Congress of South Africa](#) - [UNCIVPOL](#) - [OAU](#) - [Pan Africanist Congress of Azania \(South Africa\)](#) - [UNICEF](#) - [UNDP](#) - [UNHCR](#) - [ELECTIONS](#) - [ELECTION VERIFICATION](#) - [PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS](#) - [NAMIBIA QUESTION](#) - [ORAL HISTORY](#) - [INDEPENDENCE](#) - [TASK FORCES](#) - [FRONT-LINE STATES](#) - [POLITICAL PARTIES](#) - [INTIMIDATION](#) - [MILITARY PERSONNEL](#) - [NEGOTIATION](#) - [NATIONAL LIBERATION MOVEMENTS](#) - [Pérez de Cuéllar, Javier](#) - [Nujoma, Sam](#) - [Ahtisaari, Martti](#) - [Pienaar, Louis](#)

6.

Interview with Bishop Kleopas Dumeni by Jean Krasno

Bishop Kleopas Dumeni (Namibia, 1930 –) served as a member of the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) Program Committee for Mission and Development (DMD). After being elected as assistant to the late Bishop Leonard Auala of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Namibia, he succeeded Bishop Auala in December 1978. Bishop Dumeni remained bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church until he retired in October 2000.

The interview was conducted on 17 March 1999, a year before his retirement. Renowned for his contribution to Namibia's war for independence, Bishop Dumeni discusses the role the church played as Namibia transitioned out of apartheid and how the church is still working to heal old wounds.

Author: [Dumeni, Kleopas](#) - [Krasno, Jean E.](#) - [Yale University \(New Haven, Conn.\)](#)

Date: 1999-03-17

Subject

[SWAPO](#) - [SWAPOL](#) - [UN Transition Assistance Group](#) - [CHURCH](#) - [ELECTIONS](#) - [NAMIBIA QUESTION](#) - [ORAL HISTORY](#) - [CHURCH AND STATE](#) - [APARTHEID](#) - [ELECTION VERIFICATION](#) - [MILITARY PERSONNEL](#) - [MILITARY DEFENCES](#) - [GUERRILLAS](#) - [PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS](#) - [Ahtisaari, Martti](#)

7.

Interview with Helmer Pettersen by Jean Krasno

Norwegian police officer Helmer Pettersen (Norway,) was recruited as a candidate for the Police Academy in 1966 and left the Police Academy in 1969. He started to become involved with the United Nations in 1983, when he went to South Lebanon as a United Nations peacekeeper. Subsequently, Mr. Pettersen spent two and a half years in the Middle East. In 1989, he was involved in the peacekeeping operations as a police officer in Namibia.

Mr. Pettersen was still serving in the Norwegian police force when this interview was conducted on 9 September 1999. Here, he talks about his experiences as a station commander in the last deployment to Namibia to ensure the elections were conducted fairly. He shares his experiences, from the difficulties encountered in camp to communication with the Civilian Police (CIVPOL) and plainclothes officers. He evaluates the importance of peacekeeping troops then and their relevance today.

Author: [Pettersen, Helmer](#) - [Krasno, Jean E.](#) - [Yale University \(New Haven, Conn.\)](#)

Date: 1999-09-09

Subject

[União Nacional para a Independência Total de Angola](#) - [UN Interim Force in Lebanon](#) - [NATO](#) - [SWAPO](#) - [ELECTIONS](#) - [HUMAN RIGHTS](#) - [NAMIBIA QUESTION](#) - [PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS](#) - [ORAL HISTORY](#) - [LANDMINES](#)

8.

Interview with Moses Katjuongua by Jean Krasno

Moses Ngesuako Katjuongua (Namibia, 1942-2011), founding member of the South West Africa National Union (SWANU), first joined the political party in 1961, after he went into exile in 1959. He returned to Namibia in 1982 and was elected as SWANU President that same year. In 1983, Mr. Katjuongua was the leader of the SWANU delegation in the Multi-Party Conference and became Minister in Namibia's Interim Government. He was elected into the Constitutional Assembly for the Namibia Patriotic Front (NPF) in 1989. From 1990 until 2000, he was a Member of the first and second Namibian National Assembly. In 2003, he joined the Congress of Democrats (CoD) party.

The interview was given on 9 March 1999 and focuses on the political climate in Namibia pre- and post- independence. A Member of the Namibian National Assembly at the time of the interview, Mr. Katjuongua also touches upon the success of the United Nations Transition Assistance Group (UNTAG), the country's first elections and the liberation of Angola.

Author: [Katjuongua, Moses](#) - [Krasno, Jean E.](#) - [Yale University \(New Haven, Conn.\)](#)

Date: 1999-03-09

Subject

[UN. Security Council](#) - [UN. Security Council \(33rd year : 1978\)](#) - [SWAPO](#) - [South West Africa National Union](#) - [UN Transition Assistance Group](#) - [ELECTIONS](#) - [PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS](#) - [NAMIBIA QUESTION](#) - [ORAL HISTORY](#) - [POLITICAL PARTIES](#) - [INDEPENDENCE](#) - [INTERIM GOVERNMENTS](#) - [NATIONAL LIBERATION MOVEMENTS](#) -

[TROOP WITHDRAWAL](#) - [APARTHEID](#) - [Botha, Pieter Willem](#) - [Nujoma, Sam](#) - [De Klerk, Frederik Willem](#) - [Ahtisaari, Martti](#) - [Geingob, Hage](#)

9.

Interview with Chester Crocker by James S. Sutterlin

Professor Chester Crocker (United States, 1941 –) served as the United States Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs in 1981. As Assistant Secretary of State, he was the principal diplomatic architect and mediator in the negotiations among Angola, Cuba and South Africa that led to Namibia's transition to independence and to the withdrawal of Cuban forces from Angola. Prior to this role, Professor Crocker served as a staff officer at the National Security Council from 1970 to 1972, where he worked on Middle Eastern, Indian Ocean and African issues. He was also appointed Director of African Studies at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, Washington D.C., from 1976 to 1980.

In this interview, conducted on 20 July 1998 while he was serving as the chairman of the board of the United States Institute of Peace, Professor Crocker spoke about his experiences in diplomacy and mediation regarding Namibian independence.

Author: [Crocker, Chester A.](#) - [Sutterlin, James S.](#) - [Yale University \(New Haven, Conn.\)](#)

Date: 1998-07-20

Subject

[UN. Security Council \(33rd year : 1978\)](#) - [UN. General Assembly](#) - [União Nacional para a Independência Total de Angola](#) - [SWAPO](#) - [African National Congress of South Africa](#) - [OAU](#) - [NATO](#) - [UN Angola Verification Mission](#) - [UN Angola Verification Mission II](#) - [UN Transition Assistance Group](#) - [PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS](#) - [NAMIBIA QUESTION](#) - [ORAL HISTORY](#) - [APARTHEID](#) - [ANGOLA SITUATION](#) - [NEGOTIATION](#) - [TROOP WITHDRAWAL](#) - [Reagan, Ronald](#) - [Pérez de Cuéllar, Javier](#) - [Castro, Fidel](#) - [Ahtisaari, Martti](#) - [Santos, José Eduardo dos](#)

10.

Interview with Raymonde Martineau by James S. Sutterlin

Raymonde Martineau (Canada,) started service in the United Nations as a representative in Geneva for the International Movement for Fraternal Union Among Races and Peoples (UFER) in 1973. She stayed at that position until 1975, and in 1976, became the Liaison Officer in charge of relations with Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and other civil society at the United Nations Office in Geneva (UNOG). During her term at UNOG, Ms. Martineau participated in United Nations missions in Namibia from 1989 to 1990 and in South Africa from 1992 to 1994.

Still holding this position at the time of this interview, conducted on 7 July 1998, Ms. Martineau shares her personal account of Namibia during its first elections. As part of the team in charge of the organization of the elections in the town of Karibib, Ms. Martineau relays her experiences as one of the few women in the Namibian Mission, the challenges of building relationships with the locals, the reintegration of the refugees, the election itself and the segregation that was still heavily prevalent.

Author: [Martineau, Raymonde.](#) - [Sutterlin, James S.](#) - [Yale University \(New Haven, Conn.\)](#)

Date: 1998-07-07

Subject

[SWAPO](#) - [UNCIVPOL](#) - [UN Transition Assistance Group](#) - [UN High Commissioner for Refugees](#) - [ELECTIONS](#) - [ELECTION VERIFICATION](#) - [POLITICAL PARTIES](#) - [NAMIBIA QUESTION](#) - [ORAL HISTORY](#) - [PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS](#) - [NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS](#) - [APARTHEID](#) - [ANTI-APARTHEID MOVEMENTS](#) - [POLICE](#) - [INDEPENDENCE](#) - [Nujoma, Sam](#) - [Ahtisaari, Martti](#)

11.

Interview with Hawa Binta Dieye by James S. Sutterlin

Ms. Hawa Binta Dieye (Senegal,) was working as a researcher in the Department for Economic and Social Affairs before she volunteered for the United Nations Transition Assistance Group (UNTAG) in Namibia. Excited at the prospect of helping the country reach independence, Ms. Dieye served as head of the United Nations district center in Katutura, Windhoek, where she helped the local population prepare for the upcoming elections in 1990.

Conducted on 23 June 1998, this interview focuses on Ms. Dieye's service in Namibia. Here, she discusses how the Namibian population transitioned to independence—their education, relationships with South West Africa Police (SWAPOL), and trusting UNTAG and the work they did.

Author: [Dieye, Hawa Binta](#) - [Sutterlin, James S.](#) - [Yale University \(New Haven, Conn.\)](#)

Date: 1998-06-23

Subject

[UN Transition Assistance Group](#) - [SWAPO](#) - [UNCIVPOL](#) - [UNDP](#) - [PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS](#) - [ELECTION VERIFICATION](#) - [NAMIBIA QUESTION](#) - [ORAL HISTORY](#) - [DECOLONIZATION](#) - [POLICE](#) - [VOTER REGISTRATION](#) - [Ahtisaari, Martti](#) - [Gobin, Ruth](#) - [Gurirab, Theo-Ben](#) - [Kelly, Peggy](#)

12.

Interview with Selma Shejavali by Jean Krasno

Namibian-born educator, Selma Shejavali (Namibia,) contributes her strong sense of community with her childhood, having been taught in Namibian girls' schools and finishing her training in education in 1966 at the Teachers Training College for women in Okahao. A year and a half after her husband had moved to the United States to study, Mrs. Shejavali and their young daughter followed in 1972. During the six years they lived in the United States, the Shejavalis, after

hearing of several atrocities, became concerned with the liberation of their home country. In 1978, they returned to Namibia, only to be arrested by South African forces. Fortunately, they were released the following day. In 1986, Mrs. Shejavali joined the community initiatives of Katutura and Khomasdal to establish the People's Primary School. The school helped to educate the children of exiled Namibians during the repatriation of 1989.

During her life, Mrs. Shejavali experienced her home country during apartheid and its independence in 1990. Working on an oral history of her own when this interview was conducted on 20 March 1999, Mrs. Shejavali shares her personal experiences here, from her childhood to after Namibian independence, and touches upon the United Nations role and presence in Namibia.

Author: [Shejavali, Selma](#) - [Krasno, Jean E.](#) - [Yale University \(New Haven, Conn.\)](#)

Date: 1999-03-20

Subject

[UN. Security Council](#) - [SWAPO](#) - [UNHCR](#) - [SWAPOL](#) - [UN. General Assembly](#) - [UN Transition Assistance Group](#) - [Sweden. Styrelsen för internationell utveckling](#) - [ELECTIONS](#) - [EDUCATION](#) - [APARTHEID](#) - [NAMIBIA QUESTION](#) - [NAMIBIAN REFUGEES](#) - [ORAL HISTORY](#)

13.

Interview with Frederic Eckhard by James S. Sutterlin

Prior to joining the Secretariat in 1985, Frederic Eckhard (United States of America,) worked 12 years for the United Nations Association of the United States of America, where he was Chief Editor and Vice President. When he first joined the United Nations, he worked as an information officer on the subject of the United Nations financial crisis. He was Spokesman in the field for two United Nations peacekeeping operations—in Namibia (1989-1990) and in former Yugoslavia. He became the first Spokesman for the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) and was based in Sarajevo when the war broke out in 1992. Mr. Eckhard became the first-ever joint spokesman for the United Nations and the European Community when he was named joint spokesman for the co-chairs of the International Conference for the Former Yugoslavia in 1992. Mr. Eckhard specialized in peacekeeping as Associate Spokesman for United Nations Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali. He first joined the United Nations Spokesman's Office under Secretary General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar in 1988. In 1996, he was working under Kofi Annan in the United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) as the chief liaison officer. In January 1997, Mr. Eckhard was appointed Spokesman for United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan, and served in that capacity until his retirement in June 2005. These interviews were conducted while he was serving that position. The first interview, conducted on 16 February 1999, focused on Mr. Eckhard's personal experiences as spokesman on the field in Namibia during its independence. The second set of interviews was held on 10 May 2005 and 7 June 2005, they centred on Mr. Eckhard's evaluation on Secretary-General Kofi Annan's term.

Author: [Eckhard, Fred](#) - [Sutterlin, James S.](#) - [Yale University \(New Haven, Conn.\)](#)

Date: 1999-02-16

Subject

[SWAPO](#) - [UN Transition Assistance Group](#) - [UNHCR](#) - [HUMAN RIGHTS](#) - [ELECTIONS](#) - [DEMOCRATIZATION](#) - [NAMIBIA QUESTION](#) - [ORAL HISTORY](#)

14.

Interview with David Lush by Jean Krasno

A noted and acclaimed freelance journalist, David Lush (United Kingdom,) joined as a volunteer for The Namibian newspaper in 1988. At the time, The Namibian was the only media organization within Namibia to take a pro-independence stance and covered the independence process as it unfolded.

Still a contributor to that newspaper at the time of this interview, 20 March 1999, Mr. Lush shares the experience of covering Namibian independence, shedding light on the nature of boycotts and demonstrations of that period, United Nations presence and the heightened tension surrounding the elections.

Author: [Lush, David.](#) - [Krasno, Jean E.](#) - [Yale University \(New Haven, Conn.\)](#)

Date: 1999-03-20

Subject

[UN - ORAL HISTORY](#)

15.

Interview with Joseph J. Stephanides by James S. Sutterlin

Joseph J. Stephanides (Greece, 1945 –) served on several diplomatic positions with the Cypriot Foreign Service, including that of Deputy Permanent Representative to the United Nations, before he joined the United Nations in 1980. He served with the Secretariat for 28 years before retiring in October 2009. Among the positions he held were Deputy Director of the West Asia Regional Division in the Department of Political Affairs, Senior Officer at the United Nations Centre for Science and Technology for Development, Deputy Chief of the New York Liaison Office of the United Nations Human Rights Division. Mr. Stephanides served as Director of the Security Council Affairs Division, Department of Political Affairs, Chief of the Sanctions Branch, as well as Chief of the Security Council Practices and Charter Research Branch. Mr. Stephanides's broad experience in United Nations peacekeeping missions has taken him to service as Head of the Office of the United Nations Secretary-General in the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Head of the Kamanjab and Sesfontein Political Office of the United Nations Transition Assistance Group (UNTAG).

Still with the Secretariat at the time of this interview, conducted on 20 April 1998, Mr. Stephanides shares his experiences with his work with UNTAG in Namibia, from the conditions of the camp and communications on the ground to how his team registered voters for the elections.

Author: [Stephanides, Joseph](#) - [Sutterlin, James S.](#) - [Yale University \(New Haven, Conn.\)](#)

Date: 1998-04-20

16.

Interview with Sir Marrack Goulding by James S. Sutterlin

From 1986 to 1993 Sir Marrack Goulding (United Kingdom, 1936 – 2010) served as Under Secretary General for Special Political Affairs, overseeing the peacekeeping operations of the United Nations. During this time, under Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, Sir Marrack presided over the creation of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO). Then, in March of 1993 he was reassigned to the post of Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs.

Before joining the United Nations, Sir Marrack served in the British Diplomatic Service and completed assignments in Kuwait, Libya and Egypt. After holding positions in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office as well as the Cabinet Office in the United Kingdom, he was sent to the British Embassy in Lisbon, Portugal in 1977. Following this, Sir Marrack was assigned to the

United Kingdom Mission to the United Nations in New York City in 1979. From 1983 to 1985, Sir Marrack served as British Ambassador first to Angola and then to São Tomé and Príncipe, his last post before returning to United Nations Headquarters.

At the time of this interview, on 30 June 1998, Sir Marrack was serving as the Warden of St. Anthony's College at the University of Oxford. He discussed the peacekeeping missions that the United Nations carried out in Namibia, Cambodia and Nicaragua. He evaluated each mission's effectiveness, the problems that arose, and the involvement of Secretaries General Pérez de Cuéllar and Boutros-Ghali.

Author: [Goulding, Marrack](#) - [Sutterlin, James S.](#) - [Yale University \(New Haven, Conn.\)](#)

Date: 1998-06-30

Subject

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