

## MOZAMBICAN PRESIDENT ADDRESSES NEWS CONFERENCE IN BRUSSELS: WELCOMES ANY PEACE INITIATIVE

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President Joaquim Chissano said in Brussels today [17th March] that he has concluded that conditions had not been created for a formal meeting in the spirit of a South African proposal, which, according to South Africa, is designed to achieve peace for Mozambique. Chissano said he reached such a conclusion after talks with the various sides involved in the proposal, including the United States and the USSR as mediators.

Speaking during a press conference at EC headquarters, Joaquim Chissano reaffirmed that Mozambique welcomes any peace initiative, from any country or group of countries, on the basis of respect of sovereignty and the independence of peoples.

Asked if the application of sanctions against South Africa would harm black South Africans and neighbouring countries, the Mozambican leader dismissed the argument as pretence. President Chissano said in the case of Mozambique, some countries speak of between 60,000 and 70,000 Mozambicans who could be repatriated, rather than the 80,000 workers who no longer have the possibility of working in South African mines. Chissano stressed that such miners did not lose their jobs as a result of sanctions against South Africa, and so it is correct to say that Mozambique is already suffering the effect of a kind of sanctions, following a drastic cut in Mozambican workers in South Africa.

President Joaquim Chissano said it would be very worthwhile if one could find ways of enabling Mozambique to organise jobs for the 80,000 mine workers no longer able to go to South Africa.

The Mozambican leader added Mozambique cannot block efforts by the international community to pressure the South African government to abolish apartheid. The Mozambican leader said: "We have no right to deny the South African people peaceful instruments of struggle, instead of violent struggle. The latter is the last alternative left for the South African people. We can suffer the elimination of a further 70,000 jobs for Mozambicans in South Africa, and other methods. What matters is that measures taken against South Africa should really contribute to the eradication of apartheid. The suffering will end, both for us and the South African people."

The press conference followed a meeting between President Joaquim Chissano and Jacques Delors, President of the European Commission. The meeting was described as being of particular importance since negotiations on the forthcoming Lome convention have entered a crucial phase.