

SUMMITS' SUPPORT FOR PEACE INITIATIVES

Speaking to journalists on his return from attending a series of summit meetings in Harare, President Chissano said that all three summits had declared their support for the peace initiatives of the Mozambican government. These meetings were the Ad-hoc Committee on Southern Africa of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU), the meeting of eight central and southern African heads of state on the Angolan situation, and finally the summit of the Southern African Development Coordination Conference (SADCC).

"There was a spontaneous reception for our points of view on how to bring the violence in Mozambique to an end" said the President, alluding to the set of principles made public by the Mozambican authorities in mid-July. He said that the government would continue its efforts to ensure that these principles were accepted and applied.

President Chissano also accused Unita leader Jonas Savimbi of keeping his own followers in the dark about what had really been decided at the summit of 18 Heads of State in Gbadolite, Zaire, on 22 June, which had thrown its weight behind the Angolan government's peace initiatives. He said that continued Unita violations of the cease fire in Angola could be because other Unita leaders "do not in fact know what was decided at Gbadolite. Their chief, Jonas Savimbi, did not tell them".

Mr Chissano insisted that Savimbi knew full well that the Angolan government's peace plans were accepted at Gbadolite. This plan includes the "temporary and voluntary" withdrawal of Savimbi from Angolan politics, his exile in a country that does not border Angola, and the integration of other members of Unita into existing Angolan institutions.

The Mozambican leader also said he thought that South African acting President F.W. de Klerk would be willing to study the declaration on South Africa approved by the OAU's Ad-hoc Committee last Monday. This declaration, calling for the freeing of all political prisoners, the lifting of the state of emergency, and the unbanning of all anti-apartheid organisations as prerequisites for any negotiations, "reflects the wishes of the majority of the South African people" said Mr Chissano. Once these democratic principles were accepted "many things can change in South Africa", he added.