

SA- MOZAMBIQUE TALKS - ANC STATEMENT

Following much speculation in the international press, during December 1983, Comrade President Samora Machel announced from Guinea Bissau, later in the month, that talks were to take place in Swaziland between the government of the People's Republic of Mozambique and the apartheid regime of SA. The talks took place on the 20th of December. The Mozambique delegation was led by the Minister of Economic Affairs, Comrade Jacinto Veloso, and included Justice Minister Cde Oscar Monteiro and Governor of Niassa Province, Cde Sergio Vieira. The SA delegation was led by Pretoria's Foreign Minister, Roelof Botha.

The Mozambique news agency, Aim, reported President Machel as saying the discussions were 'essential in finding a *modus vivendi* in Southern Africa'. The President went on to stress that Pretoria had been given advance warning that Mozambique was not entering the talks to recognise apartheid or its 'black homelands' or to destroy the ANC. 'The main objective of the talks is that no country attacks another,' he said. 'Neighbours are not chosen. They may bother us, or we may bother them.' President Machel reiterated the fact that there are no ANC bases in Mozambique and renewed charges that Pretoria is supporting Mozambican counter-revolutionary forces.

According to President Machel, Mozambique had had a number of international contacts on the situation in Southern Africa following his visit to several European capitals last October. During a press conference in Guinea Bissau, he stated, 'Just yesterday, I received a long telex from the United States.' In his 1984 New Year message, issued on the 28th of Decem-

ber, President Machel returned to the issue of the relations between Mozambique and apartheid SA.

He pointed out: 'In the context of our policy of peace, good neighbourliness and coexistence with the countries of our zone, we have been making contacts with the SA authorities with a view to reducing tensions in our region and to defining rules for a normal and peaceful relationship between two neighbouring states within the universally accepted principles between nations of living side by side. We re-affirm to the SA authorities that the establishment of good neighbourly relations between the People's Republic of Mozambique and the Republic of SA requires the ending of SA support for the armed bandits which the Pretoria regime recruits, trains, finances, equips and directs to launch criminal actions against our sovereign state.'

'In these contacts, the People's Republic of Mozambique has re-affirmed the principles of our socialist policy of peace, firmly condemning the system of apartheid and the bantustan policy, and restating our political diplomatic and moral support for the ANC, which fights for democracy, which fights against racial discrimination and for equality between all races in SA.'

'Because of the noble objectives for which it fights, the ANC is deeply rooted among the SA masses, enjoys the respect of all the people of the world and is internationally recognised as a movement which fights for peace, for equality, for the right of all South Africans to be simply South Africans and not divided into Bantu and white and coloured people and Indians, as happens today under apartheid. It is for these reasons that the ANC enjoys the unconditional support of all true lovers of peace, social justice and progress, included among whom are the Mozambican people.'

President Machel went on to denounce the aggressive nature of imperialism manifested in the latest events in the Middle East, the deployment of new missiles in Western Europe, US intervention in Grenada and Pretoria's continued invasion and occupation of the People's Republic of Angola. He placed Mozambique's engagement in the search for peace in Southern Africa 'in the context of the world-wide policy of peace of all progressive humanity.'

In his own 1984 New Year message, the apartheid Prime Minister, PW Botha, repeated the threats to intensify Pretoria's aggression against the independent states in Southern Africa which continue to recognise and support the ANC. He said that the apartheid regime had not yet used its full military might to clear our region of 'terrorists' and pledged to destroy the ANC. The Mozambique-South Africa meeting in Swaziland was the third within the year. The previous two, both at ministerial level, had been held in the Eastern Transvaal border town of Komatipoort.

ANC Information Department
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