

S African Comment Urges Peaceful Reconciliation in Mozambique

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Text of commentary:

As the civil war in Mozambique escalates, the speculation, rumours and accusations are rife. South Africa, one of the accusations goes, is about to invade Mozambique. Another accusation is that South Africa is no longer interested in the Incomati accord. South Africa has denied these accusations. Now, an unequivocal statement on South Africa's attitude towards Mozambique has been made, and it has come from the highest level, from the State President, Mr P.W. Botha.

Mr Botha has said he hopes the Incomati accord will survive. That is a clear and categoric [sic] statement. In the same categoric terms, Mr Botha said that South Africa strives for peace and friendship between all people and nations. This commitment, although it has been given many times before, is of particular relevance in view of the situation in Mozambique today. There will be no invasion and no aggression by South African forces against Mozambique or any other sovereign African nation. The only action South Africa will take, and then only if it becomes absolutely necessary, is to eliminate terrorist bases which are used to launch murderous attacks on the innocent men, women and children in South Africa.

What is happening in Mozambique today underlines the futility of war and revolution as a means of resolving political problems. What is needed in Mozambique is for the two warring parties to come together at the conference table and work towards a national government of unity and reconciliation. Much the same situation prevails in Angola, where there is no end in sight to the civil war, a war that has plunged the country into misery and suffering. In Angola, as in Mozambique, the solution lies not in war, but in peace talks leading to national unity and reconciliation.

In southern Africa as a whole, there is a challenging need to follow a course different to that of the rest of Africa, a course that rejects violence, revolution and war. It will lead to peaceful discussion and consensus. Only in this way can there be stability, progress and an improvement in the quality of life of the ordinary people of southern Africa.