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**SOUTH AFRICA-MOZAMBIQUE** *HRBP 26(7) 15/6/89*

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**Mutual Assurances**

Mr. F. W. de Klerk, South Africa's president-in-waiting, and Mr. Joaquim

Chissano, President of Mozambique, both achieved what they were looking for at a three-hour meeting on July 19th.

Besides gaining additional foreign exposure, Mr. de Klerk flew back to Pretoria with a pledge from Mr. Chissano that if South Africa dismantled apartheid and introduced significant degrees of equality, then Mr. Chissano would support South Africa's reintegration into the southern African community of nations.

Mr. Chissano suggested that "if there is a sound process of change in South Africa" a de Klerk government could look forward to Mozambican support for a regional conference with neighbouring African states, which South Africa so desires.

Mr. de Klerk and Pik Botha, his Foreign Minister, had given assurances, Mr. Chissano said, that "during the mandate of the future president this problem of discrimination will be solved so then there will be real democracy in South Africa". The South Africans, he said, had promised that their "commitment is to work to achieve this goal as quickly as possible, not a solution to be dragged out indefinitely".

Mr. Chissano, in turn, obtained Mr. de Klerk's public support for his new peace initiative, aimed at ending the 14-year-old war against the Mozambique National Resistance (MNR) rebels

(otherwise known as Renamo), which have enjoyed South African support since 1980. "Renamo should, according to our view, stop violence and become part of the efforts for peaceful development in Mozambique," Mr. de Klerk said.

**"Interaction"**

What Mr. de Klerk described as the "interaction" between South Africa and Mozambique has often been a stormy affair. South African military forces have attacked African National Congress (ANC) offices in Mozambique at least three times since the former Portuguese colony gained independence in 1975, and much of Renamo's military prowess is due to nearly a decade of South African sponsorship.

Both Mr. Chissano, who was foreign minister, and Mr. de Klerk symbolise the rise of the politician over the military man. In recent years, co-operation between the two countries has risen sharply. South Africa has promised to help Mozambique repair the giant Cahora Bassa hydroelectric complex in the northwestern province of Tete, and has lent \$2m (£1.2m) to rehabilitate the port of Maputo, which is the best outlet for South African coal and citrus exporters. (IND 20/7)