

Maputo Radio Assesses President Botha's Visit
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[From the "Outlook Africa" program, presented by Jose Tembe]

[Text] President P.W. Botha of South Africa has agreed to stop supporting the MNR bandits in Mozambique. President Botha stated this during his meeting with President Joaquim Chissano at Songo in Mozambique's central province of Tete yesterday. Radio Mozambique's reporter Teresa Lima was there and we asked her to give us the details of the meeting between the two presidents.

[Lima] The two presidents agreed to pursue the peace in the region. What does it mean? President Chissano told, in the press conference at the end of conversations, that Pieter Botha agreed to not help the armed bandits in Mozambique. Also, according to a press communique, South Africa agreed to rehabilitate the power lines between Cahora Bassa and South Africa and also to contribute for the rehabilitation of the railway between South Africa and Mozambique in the south. The railway is connecting [words indistinct] and Maputo Harbor.

[Tembe] Can you talk about the environment of people of Tete? According to the local media, President Chissano had some conversations with the people who gathered at the scene of the talks.

[Lima] Yes, the atmosphere was very cordial, but President Chissano, when he was leaving the airport in Songo with President Botha, told the people who were around the airport: Can you ask Mr Pieter Botha what he was doing here. Ask him, please. And Chissano talked to the people: He [Botha] said he was here to cooperate with us and to help to improve the security of this region. Someone in the crowd talked to the president: Yes, we can see if it will be true.

I think this is a question which can show that the people have some hope, buy any way, the people are not so confident. The people must see before believing, but they know what the South Africans are doing here in Mozambique and in southern Africa.

[Tembe] South Africans have always refused the allegations of their involvement in destabilizing southern African states. What did Pieter Botha say in terms of ... [changes thought] I mean...[statement incomplete]

[Lima] He was very ambiguous. He was not clear, but President Chissano said Pieter Botha has said that they will not help the armed bandits in Mozambique.

[Tembe] Yes, it seems to me that Pieter Botha, by agreeing to stop supporting the armed bandits, in other words, he is accepting that he has continued to support the MNR?

[Lima] Somebody can think this, yes. He didn't say it but you can think it.

[Tembe] In fact, that's what most people can speculate from this agreement. At the recent press conference, Foreign Affairs Minister Pascoal Mocumbi spoke of evidence of South Africa's involvement in the destabilization of Mozambique.

[Begin Mocumbi recording] We have had opportunity to explain to the (?world) community who are the armed bandits. We have evidence of South African involvement in destabilization in Mozambique. We have presented the South African authorities and we have...[changes thought] after the Gorongosa documents that were (?published), you know about the Gorongosa documents [words indistinct] 1985, now more recent South African involvement has been presented to South African authorities and they have agreed in Mozambique that it is not easy to have, what you call, hard evidence, after the Gorongosa documents, because we have all to learn how to write, how to cover their participation in the destabilization of Mozambique. But we have evidence of overflying over our borders, we have evidence of telecommunication that sent instructions to Mozambique and received reports from the [word indistinct] of the terrorists in our country. We have also caught some individuals who came, who claimed to be coming from South Africa. It was now, in our days now. (?I've been investigating). You will remember that one Australian man is now in jail after being charged. He also gave us evidence of support that he received and assistance to the terrorists who are operating in Mozambique. So, these are the more recent information I can give to you but, other sources, like intelligence sources, I am not in a position to give you now. [end recording]

[Tembe] So, there is clear evidence of the involvement in the past of Mr Botha's regime in destabilizing the region and, particularly, Mozambique. Now, everybody is eager to see in practice the present commitment. Also, at a recent press conference, a journalist asked Mr Mocumbi how Mozambique plans to iron out the destabilization problems in the country.

[Begin Mocumbi recording] Well, we consider in Mozambique that the combination of action in different fields will lead to a solution in the region. We intend a political, diplomatic action, combined with military action, combined with economic action, will lead to peace and stability in the region. So far, we have witnessed positive progress in the diplomatic action when the quadripartite talks on southwestern Africa are progressing, when peace initiatives at (?further disarmament) are also getting good results. What we expect is that all parties, particularly South Africa and other partners of South Africa would be serious in the implementation of all that we agree on. [end recording]