

'No hitches on Namibia'

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Botha guaranteed no help from SA for MNR: Chissano

MOZAMBIKAN President Joaquim Chissano has said South Africa "has given us guarantees that it is not going to help Renamo (MNR)".

Cde Chissano was speaking at a Press conference after his meeting with the South African head of state, Mr P. W. Botha.

He was responding to a question on whether he believed that South Africa would now stop all support for the bandits, given the fact that after the signing of the Nkomati non-aggression agreement in 1984, Mozambique continuously accused Pretoria of not fulfilling the accord.

Answering a question on his personal opinion of the MNR, President Botha said: "My personal opinion is the opinion I received from the elected head of state in Mozambique, and he tells me that if they will accept his work under the new law which he passed in his country, namely the amnesty law, they can come back and take part in free and peaceful discussions with him, but they must not continue violence. Then I believe him."

Cde Chissano spoke of "building more and more confidence" between the countries and announced that he and Mr Botha would meet again, although dates have not been set for the next meeting.

The Mozambican presi-

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dent stated that he did not expect any criticism from other African leaders for having met Mr Botha.

"My colleagues are aware of this meeting, and they will not criticise me. The only thing they expect of me is that I tell them whether the meeting went well or badly. If I wish, I will tell them more, but they will not even ask me what we have discussed," he said.

Asked whether he still thought apartheid was the root cause of the problems in Southern Africa, Cde Chissano replied: "Yes, to a certain extent apartheid has been an obstacle to the free contacts between the countries of the region and South Africa, and it has been the cause of mistrust. Therefore, we have to work together to see what is behind that policy."

He said that countries of the region have always tried to "work for detente with South Africa", but "historical conditions" had not allowed for the creation of "such an atmosphere as the one which we have created".

On the question of mutual trust, Cde Chissano said there was now "more confi-

dence, more trust on both sides due to several developments in the area and in South Africa too".

The two presidents met privately for almost 90 minutes on Monday in the small town of Songo, overlooking the Cahora Bassa dam in north-western Mozambique, before joining their respective delegations for further talks.

Both presidents speak fluent English and thus did not need interpreters. No other persons were present in the meeting.

At the end of the day, a final communique announced that the two sides discussed a number of topics, including Cahora Bassa, railways and migrant labour.

Mr Botha flew to Malawi to brief President Kamuzu Banda on the talks he held with Cde Chissano.

Speaking to journalists on arrival at Lilongwe's Kamuzu Airport, he said South Africa was ready to go along with internationally supervised elections for the country's independence. "As far as Namibia is concerned, South Africa has no plans against it. We would like to see that country independent as soon as possible in terms of Resolution 435."

— Ziana- AIM-Pana-Mana.