

Mozambican Would Meet Botha

NYT Special to The New York Times 27/4/88

JOHANNESBURG, April 26 — Mr. Chissano has indicated that he is prepared to meet President P. W. Botha of South Africa in an attempt to help resolve the conflict in southern Africa.

The offer came in the text of a statement released by South Africa's Foreign Minister, Roelof F. Botha, tonight after a surprise meeting between President Botha and a special envoy from Mr. Chissano. During the meeting, the two countries agreed to revive a joint security commission.

That commission, first established in March 1984 under a treaty known as the Nkomati accord and revived last August, pledged the two countries not to allow their territory to be used as bases for attacks on each other. Within a year of the signing of the pact, however, each was accusing the other of violating the terms of the agreement.

President Botha and President Chis-

sano have never met. Mr. Botha did meet President Samora M. Machel, Mr. Chissano's predecessor, who died in a plane crash in 1986, to sign the Nkomati accord.

In talks today with Mozambique's Cooperation Minister, Jacinto Veloso, President Botha agreed to Mr. Chissano's proposal to arrange a meeting of officials aimed at reconvening the now-defunct joint security commission, which was to monitor compliance with the accord.

However, both Governments today leveled accusations of violations of the Nkomati agreement. Mr. Botha said that for the agreement to function properly, the two sides needed to end such accusations and allow a joint liaison committee and the security commission to function on possible violations.