

President Samora Machel's Visit to Zimbabwe

Salisbury home service in English 0500 gmt 5 Aug 80

Text of report

In his speech welcoming President Machel of Mozambique, the President, the Hon Canaan Banana, said at a state banquet in Salisbury last night that the distinguished guest has been immortalized in Zimbabwe by having one of the principal avenues in the capital renamed after him. The President continued: Before you take leave of our country you will no doubt receive many more marks of the high esteem in which you are held by our countrymen. However, whatever Zimbabweans do, it will never suffice to repay the debt of gratitude owed to Mozambique and to President Machel in person.

The state visit will mark the commencement of a new era of friendly and equal co-operation between two sovereign states which are desirous of fighting to the logical conclusion poverty, ignorance, under-development and dependency in our sub-region and indeed the whole continent of Africa.

Zimbabwe is determined to sweep away all signs of colonial and racist exploitation. The long struggle for our liberation has left scars which have to be healed. We have an immense task of reconstruction, resettlement and reconciliation. In this task we must look for help to our neighbours and the world at large.

President Banana predicted that Zimbabweans will turn out in their tens of thousands to demonstrate to President Machel that the solidarity and co-operation between our two Governments is founded on the solid rock of the masses. President Banana concluded by saying: Long live the militant solidarity between the People's Republic of Mozambique and the Republic of Zimbabwe; long live the oneness of the povo of Mozambique and Zimbabwe.

In his speech of reply President Machel told Zimbabweans that their liberation struggle freed Mozambique from aggression. He added: Your liberation struggle freed southern Africa from war; your liberation struggle freed the colonial power from colonialism; above all the liberation struggle freed your people from racism.

Today, President Machel continued, there are Zimbabweans who are white and black, whose mother tongue is Shona, Ndebele, English, Afrikaans or even Portuguese. Thanks to the heroism of your people Indian children, black children, white children are today simply children of Zimbabwe. They are free citizens of a free country who, having rediscovered peace and confidence, are building a future of hope and prosperity.

President Machel said he would like to recall as symbols of the determination to create peace and freedom in Zimbabwe and southern Africa some dearly beloved comrades who were also exemplary combatants and leaders of consequence - Leopold Takawira, Herbert Chitepo, Justin Moyo and Alfred Mangena. Because he was a symbol of the liberation struggle, because he was a hero among heroic guerrillas, we remember [with] special affection our comrade, the great commander, Josiah Tongogara.

President Machel pointed out that by democratic vote the people of Zimbabwe have chosen as their leader his dear and respected friend, Comrade Robert Mugabe. This popular decision confirms the close identity of the people with the forces that led the process of national liberation. President Machel said the Mozambican people have always found Comrade Mugabe to be an intransigently honest and determined patriot who always refused any capitulation. Robert Mugabe brought together the qualities of a man of theory and a man of action, of a leader identified with his people, regardless of race, creed, education or economic level. He has therefore gained incontestable prestige and respect. He has become one of the most outstanding leaders of our continent.

President Machel concluded by asking those present to join him in a toast: to the constant strengthening of friendship and solidarity, of co-operation and mutual support between our peoples and states; to success in the building of a peaceful, united, democratic, prosperous and anti-racist Zimbabwe; to the health of Their Excellencies, President and Mrs Canaan Banana, and Prime Minister and Mrs Robert Mugabe; to the victory of the cause of peace, freedom, democracy, co-operation and prosperity in southern Africa. A luta continua.

Note: Earlier, at 1115 gmt on 3rd August, Salisbury radio said:

(Excerpt) The chairman of the Cabinet committee which has been charged with the task of making preparations to welcome President Machel, Comrade Zvobgo, said elaborate arrangements have been made to welcome President Machel, who is scheduled to arrive in Salisbury tomorrow morning. He said, as a gesture of welcome, Zimbabweans will line the entire route from the airport to Samora Machel Avenue, named in his honour. He said the first thing President Machel will do is to officially open the avenue named after him.