

## **Machel Warns Malawi of Border Shutdown Over MNR**

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Text of report:

In Maputo yesterday, President Samora Machel stated that he could shut down the traffic from Malawi to South Africa and Zimbabwe, and place missiles on the border with that country if the Malawian authorities do not stop their support for armed banditry in Mozambique. Speaking to national and foreign journalists at Maputo airport, the Mozambican head of state said that those conditions were presented in Blantyre yesterday at the summit held by President Banda of Malawi and the leaders of Mozambique, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Describing the summit as historic in view of its openness, sincerity, involvement and honesty, Samora Machel also disclosed that Mozambique, Zambia and Zimbabwe went to Malawi on behalf of the frontline states and that these share the responsibility of the stand adopted and the conditions put forward. At the press conference given to Mozambican and foreign journalists at Maputo airport, President Machel said that in August the frontline states met in Luanda with a view to discussing the present situation in southern Africa and to assess the strategy of the struggle to liberate the region totally. According to President Machel, the frontline states agreed in Luanda that the world is already aware that apartheid is not a rotten fruit which will fall by itself. According to Machel, apartheid has instruments for its defence and survival.

Accordingly, the Mozambican head of state said that there are countries which are accomplices of racist South Africa, and countries that in view of their geographic situation are eternal slaves of Pretoria. On this issue Samora Machel recalled the goal of lessening dependence on South Africa that guided the creation of SADCC six years ago. He added that South Africa immediately understood those goals and since then it has launched a plan of destruction against Mozambique. This plan, President Machel stressed, was not aimed at Mozambique alone, but the hinterland [preceding word in English] countries as a whole, including Zaire which finds in Mozambique and Angola its natural doors to the outside world.

Samora Machel mentioned the dominant role being played in South Africa today by the military and the warmongering circles, while politicians have a secondary role. He added that the South African militarist forces have assembled in Malawi, involving this country in the destabilisation against Mozambique and SADCC.

On Malawi President Machel pointed out this country's stand in view of Portuguese colonial domination in Mozambique. He recalled that at the time the Malawian government used Mozambican ports, then in the hands of Portugal, and that today, when Mozambique is independent, Malawi exchanged these natural and more profitable routes for South African ports. This concern was conveyed yesterday by the frontline states to the Blantyre summit during which Malawi was called upon to join the efforts of the entire region with a view to bringing into full operation the Mozambican ports of Beira, Maputo and Nacala.

President Machel was accompanied to the summit by a high-level delegation which included the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Defence, Security, and Ports, and also Mariano Matshinhe, leader of Niassa province; Bonifacio Gruveta, head of the department of grassroots organisations of the Central Committee; and Joao Americo Mpumo, Tete military commander. The summit lasted about two hours. A press conference, which was due to be held immediately after the summit, was suddenly cancelled after several dozen journalists had waited in the conference room for two hours.