

## President Chissano in Brussels: peace, cooperation and reconstruction for Mozambique

The President of the People's Republic of Mozambique, Joaquim Alberto Chissano, paid an official visit to Belgium and the Commission of the European Communities from 15-17 March. The visit, which took place at the invitation of Baudouin,

King of the Belgians, provided an opportunity for discussions with members of the Belgian Government, and with Belgium's Prime Minister Wilfried Martens in particular.

The discussions with the Belgian authorities focused on improving and expanding bilateral cooperation.

President Chissano also made his first official visit to the Commission and ACP House, where he was most

warmly received by his hosts. At the Commission, he held talks with President Jacques Delors and Vice-President Manuel Marin, who is responsible for Development and Fisheries, and with various top officials.

Mozambique (see Country Report in No 114) has a number of serious economic difficulties to cope with, most of which stem from the political problems of Southern Africa and the internal instability occasioned by the RENAMO, the anti-Government movement.

President Chissano asked the Community to "play an active part in changing the situation" in this part of Africa, particularly as regards the anti-apartheid campaign and the forthcoming Namibian independence.

When it came to economic cooperation with the Community, the talks ranged over the search for solutions to the debt of the ACP States in general and those of Southern Africa in particular and the future of ACP-EEC relations with the Single Market of 1992.

The Commission also promised to provide Mozambique with a substantial amount of food aid—something



President J. Chissano at ACP House

like 80 000 tonnes of cereals worth ECU 28 m, as against the ECU 25 m of 1988—in 1989.

The Community again confirmed that it was willing to provide financing to back the transport projects (the Nacala, Beira and Limpopo Corridors) which are so important to the development of the landlocked countries in this region.

It will also be helping to finance the economic recovery programme, providing emergency aid especially for refugees (there are almost a million in Malawi, Zimbabwe and Swaziland), and assisting with the civil protection of development projects. Community support will also aim at reducing the harmful social effects of structural adjustment.

At a press conference at the end of the visit, President Chissano reaffirmed the need for cooperation between the European Community and Mozambique. He insisted on cooperation and "not aid", he said.

On the subject of the political situation in the region, the President told journalists that he himself had suggested to P. W. Botha, the South African President, that the USSR be involved in any negotiations, along with the USA. If, as some sources suggested, the superpowers were indeed to hold such a meeting on peace in Southern Africa, then he personally would be very pleased, because, when he had made his suggestions, the psychological conditions were not right and he had not been "officially followed".

The President mentioned economic sanctions against South Africa, saying that the citizens from his country "down South African mines were no reason" not to take such sanctions against Pretoria. "To use the presence of these Mozambican workers in South Africa not to apply economic sanctions would be a pretext", Mr Chissano said.

The Head of State admitted that his country could well suffer from the economic sanctions against South Africa, but he thought that it would give higher meaning to the sacrifice of the people of Mozambique if the sanctions led to the end of apartheid. He also said that he was "frustrated" at the Community's approach to Pretoria, although "not disappointed", because he did not despair of seeing the Twelve get more involved in further action against apartheid.

## At ACP House

Joaquim Chissano also answered questions about his country's political and administrative organisation. The institutions were being reformed, he said, to make them more efficient. One of the important things here was creation of the job of Prime Minister, although, for the moment, he added, there was no room for a multiparty system yet.

Before this, the President had been to ACP House, where he was received by the Committee of Ambassadors and its Chairman Raymond Chasle (Mauritius). Mr Chasle, the doyen of the ACP diplomatic corps in Brussels, made a remarkable speech paying great tribute to the "worthy successor" of President Samora Machel, who was killed in a plane crash in South Africa in 1986.

The Ambassador recalled President Chissano's qualities as a fighter for the nation's freedom, and as a promoter of internal peace in the region today, stressing the major part he had played in seeking dignified solutions for the peoples of Southern Africa. Mr Chasle then reassured the President of the ACP Group's determination to seek the best ways and means of speeding up the developing situation in Southern Africa with the Community. The present negotiations (for Lomé IV), he said, are "an opportunity for the ACPs to reformulate their demands for the fight against apartheid".

President Chissano said he hoped that the new Convention would make for a substantial improvement in ACP-EEC cooperation, in particular

through an agreement on the special arrangements for commodity prices, a greater volume of financial and technical cooperation and equitable solutions to the problems of debt and the flow of ACP exports to the Community.

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