

## **Speeches by Mozambican and Portuguese Presidents at Maputo Talks**

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*Text of recording of speeches by Presidents Machel and Eanes at the opening session of the official talks between their delegations in Maputo on 25th November*

[Machel]

With your permission, Mr President, and that of your high ranking delegation, I should like to say welcome to the PRM. The PRM is a liberated zone of humanity - a land which was liberated by the Mozambican people - in which today we are constructing a society free of exploitation of man by man. In this land we are struggling for the well-being of the people. We are struggling against humiliation, racism and all forms of oppression. We are struggling for man's dignity. We have, Mr President, freely chosen the socialist path. Your visit, Mr President, has a particular significance. We consider your visit as a historic landmark in our relations, expressing the common wish of our peoples to strengthen, deepen and consolidate friendly relations, solidarity and genuine co-operation for our mutual benefit. Certainly, your visit, Mr President, will enable you to know our Mozambican reality, the true meaning of what the PRM (?stands for). It will enable you to understand that between the Mozambican and Portuguese peoples there has always been friendship; there was never hatred between our peoples. To this delegation, friendship and solidarity has more importance than during the struggle for national liberation [sentence as heard]. We ourselves never confused, Mr President, the colonial system with the Portuguese people. During our struggle the enemy was the colonial system and fascism, the same system which oppressed and killed Portuguese people. It was the same system which forced the sons of Portugal to wage their just struggle. The Front for the Liberation of Mozambique always defined [words indistinct] Portuguese colonialism and not the Portuguese people. [Words indistinct] and disturbances in all the Mozambican Liberation Front we did not confuse the enemy and it was an opportune time to distinguish correctly who the enemy was even if he changed his clothes. When some of us thought - some of us wanted to transform our war into a racist war, the Front for the Liberation of Mozambique was once again able to define correctly and in a clear manner the true enemy and the enemy to be shot. It was at that time that we declared that colonialism has no colour or race, exploitation has no colour, race or fatherland. Your presence here in the PRM, Mr President, is in accordance with what has always been the hope of our peoples - to strengthen the existing relations of friendship and solidarity. Your visit is a further step in the development of these relations which will allow us to improve existing co-operation between the PRM and Portugal and analyse ways and means of making this co-operation much better. Mr President, you will have the opportunity to know more about our achievements and the tasks we are engaged in concerning national reconstruction and the building of a socialist society, particularly in this

decade which has just started, the decade defined by our Party as the decade of victory over underdevelopment. This victory will depend essentially and above all on the (?interaction of Mozambicans with friendly countries, which are a very important element). Mr President, this can be achieved and it will bring about a profound political and economic transformation in southern Africa. [Words indistinct] to it we have here in Maputo the front line of the struggle between freedom and oppression. You are also aware of the apartheid system, an inhuman system. Mr President, we understand your interest and intentions in trying to understand these transformations. Mr President Ramalho Eanes, we would like to convey our highest respect to you and your high-ranking delegation. Warmest greetings from the Mozambican people. I convey to you, Mr President, as well your delegation, our good wishes of welcome. Please feel at home both in our capital and throughout the PRM. Very many thanks, Mr President [applause].

[EANES]

Mr President, on behalf of the Portuguese delegation which is accompanying me and on my own behalf, I would like to thank you in simple words for the warm and friendly welcome accorded to us. As you well know my delegation and I are representatives of a new Portugal, a Portugal that was born on 25th April [1974] and which in the field of external affairs is trying to develop relations with peoples of the world and especially to have good relations with the people of Mozambique. Various efforts made by your country in recent years have led to a new era of relations between our peoples. During this era we have particularly stood for uncompromising respect for the sovereignty of our countries. It is an era of rapprochement in which political and cultural dialogue and economic dialogue are not only possible but necessary [words indistinct] and indispensable for the defence of the convergent interests of our peoples. It is important that these dialogues take place between our sovereign peoples. It will be a difficult but worthwhile dialogue - difficult because only in this way will the different interests of two sovereign peoples become [word indistinct] because these two sovereign peoples will understand that it is necessary to look much more (?earnestly) at their convergent interests. To begin with I understand the difficulties on the part of Mozambique, but after the talks between the delegations it is hoped that the strengthening of relations and the (?expected) mobilization of greater co-operation may contribute to the development and betterment of the two peoples, to justice and peace in our respective areas, and at the same time to peace and our mutual interests. I would like to tell you, Mr President, that Portugal in fact wants to see the PRM a stable state internally and enjoying prestige in the external field. Portugal is interested, Mr President, in your fundamental interests. In this respect, as I have mentioned, the PRM in general and, in particular, President Samora Machel can count on Portugal. In this connection Portugal also needs a (?future) relationship which respects sovereignties equally, finds appropriate solutions to mutual problems, and in time of trouble enables us to count on Your Excellency and the people Your Excellency governs. I would like to add a final word concerning what you said yesterday and the special way you put it in referring to the day-to-day life of the people; it was touching and very natural. Thank you [applause].

Note: In the same broadcast Maputo radio noted the composition of the two

delegations as follows: Mozambique - Joaquim Chissano, Foreign Minister; Jose Oscar Monteiro, Minister of State for the Presidency; Rui Baltazar, Minister of Finance; Salomao Manguambe, Minister of Foreign Trade; Fernando Ganhao, Rector of Eduardo Mondlane University; Joaquim Munhepe, Deputy Political Commissar of the Mozambican Armed Forces, FPLM; Prakash Ratilal, Deputy Minister-Deputy Governor of the Bank of Mozambique; Fernando Vaz, Deputy Health Minister; Joao Ataide, Ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary in the Portuguese Republic; and other senior officials. Portugal - Goncalves Pereira, Foreign Minister; Vitor Alves of the Council of the Revolution; Luis [name indistinct] de Carvalho, Secretary of State for Tourism; Fernando Faria de Oliveira, Secretary of State for Planning; Antonio Gomes de Pinho, Secretary of State for Culture; Jose da Silva Domingos, Secretary of State for External Transport and Communications; Jose Cutileiro, Portuguese Ambassador in the PRM; and other senior officials.