

## **S African Comment Rejecting "Dismal" Alternative to Incomati Accord**

Johannesburg in English for abroad 1500 gmt 11 Mar 85

Text of commentary on the Incomati accord:

The 16th of this month will mark the first anniversary of the signing of the Incomati accord between South Africa and Mozambique and there are still some difficulties involved in the accord. One of the main ones is that there is no peace yet in Mozambique and Renamo [Mozambique National Resistance movement] is continuing with its violence. As far as Mozambique is concerned, this situation is a threat to the credibility of the Incomati accord. As far as the South African Government is concerned, this is a situation which it is finding extremely difficult to do anything about.

That the South African Government is today at loggerheads with Renamo is evident. South African Foreign Minister Pik Botha has even accused Renamo of personally insulting him. Because of the value the South African Government attaches to the Incomati accord it's also obvious that it does not give nor does it condone support to Renamo. Certainly therefore any unofficial support which may be reaching Renamo from South Africa is frowned on by the South African Government.

Yet the Incomati accord does not consist only of security agreements, important though they may be. There have been other spin-offs for Mozambique. For example, at least the

South African and Mozambican Governments are in direct contact with each other and problems can be discussed. Rail traffic between South Africa and Maputo has increased despite the security problems. Foreign investors have shown that they now have a greater interest in Mozambique. The United States has lifted its trade ban and relations between the Americans and Mozambique are better than they ever were before. Generally speaking, on the economic front, Western countries are known to have more confidence in Mozambique because of its commitment to regional economic cooperation.

The alternative to Incomati is dismal. It would mean a return to confrontation between South Africa and Mozambique and would resolve none of Mozambique's problems and create many for South Africa. There are rumours in South Africa that Mozambique might call in the help of the Soviet Union and its Cuban surrogate forces. Had the Cubans resolved the problems of Angola this might have been a good idea. In fact, the war in Angola is worse today than it ever was and the Cubans have caused a total polarisation among the Angolan people. Right now it seems that the best that can happen is increased negotiations between South Africa and Mozambique with both sides exercising patience.