

Mozambican Commentary on the First Anniversary of Incomati Accord

Maputo in English for southern Africa 1800 gmt 13 Mar 85

Text of commentary:

Saturday [16th March] marks the first anniversary of the Incomati accord between Mozambique and South Africa. As the anniversary approaches, a great deal is being said and written about violations of the non-aggression and good-neighbourliness agreement from South African soil.

This is no longer a matter of speculation or accusation. The South African Foreign Minister, Mr Botha, last month admitted that elements in South Africa were continuing to supply assistance in some form or another to the Mozamibican National Resistance in Mozambique. This and the assistance provided by individuals and organisations nostalgic of Portuguese colonialism have enabled the terrorists to continue their banditry at a higher level than would otherwise have been possible.

But this is not an open-ended conflict. The armed bandits in Mozambique will be defeated, whether or not they continue to receive arms, ammunition, money and training from abroad. To imagine that a popular government can be brought down by acts of terrorism and sabotage specifically directed against the people is an absurd notion. The fact that Incomati has not brought peace and tranquillity to Mozambique is unfortunate, but it does not alter the inevitable outcome of the conflict. The Mozambican people, led by the Frelimo party, will win.

However, there is another aspect of Incomati that should not go unnoticed. This is the fact that it has not ended the violence in South Africa. Before Incomati, the South African Government claimed that the struggle against it was a foreign conspiracy, with Mozambique playing a key role. Since Incomati, there has not been a single charge that Mozambique is violating the accord in any way. But the South African Government today is facing greater and more organised popular resistance than it has faced in many years. The masses of South Africa are in conflict with a violent and repressive system which is recognised as such by the entire international community.

It seems there is no end to this conflict in sight. As South Africa's economic situation deteriorates, the Government's armed forces and police are resorting to more violence and more repression. The black majority respond with greater resistance, showing determination to struggle for democracy and justice for all South African citizens. There is only one way to end this cycle of violence, and that is to dismantle the system which causes it - the apartheid system. The inevitable end of the conflict in South Africa is the destruction of the apartheid regime, and when apartheid goes peace will have a chance in southern Africa, because apartheid is the root cause of aggression and destabilisation in the region.