

Mozambique Reaction to Viljoen's Statements on Incomati Accord

Maputo in English for southern Africa 1100 gmt 10 Oct 85

Text of commentary:

The Chief of Staff of the South African Armed Forces, Gen Constand Viljoen, has admitted - in a roundabout way - violating the Incomati non-aggression accord, which his Government signed with Mozambique in March last year. He has also claimed that he was acting under orders from his Government.

There is no point in the general saying that this was done in an effort to bring peace to Mozambique. There is no point in him saying that the Mozambican Government agreed not to shoot down any South African planes violating the accord. There is no point in claiming that the violations were merely technical. The facts are simple: the South African Government and its armed forces have admitted that they sent in supplies by planes, ships, and submarines, to their surrogate forces, the MNR [Renamo] terrorists. The Pretoria regime will find to its cost that nobody, not even its closest friends, believe that the Mozambican Government turned a blind eye to these acts of aggression. To believe the official South African story is to believe that the Mozambican Government is suicidal.

Gen Viljoen claims that all he and his government were trying to do was bring two warring sides together. He presents the two warring sides as the Frelimo Party on one hand, and the MNR, or Renamo, on the other. There is no mention of the fact that the MNR terrorist group was created and trained in silence by the racist regimes to southern Africa.

There are two parties involved in this problem: one is the Mozambican Government and the other is the South African Government. The Incomati accord of 16th March 1984 was a solemn and binding agreement to end the state of undeclared war between these two governments. Under the terms of the accord, the South African Government pledged to stop sending supplies to its puppets in Mozambique. The South African Government has not honoured this pledge. The Incomati accord does not say that violations are permissible in some cases, that from time to time one side may violate the accord if it seems a sensible thing to do. It is a solemn, and binding agreement.

Gen Viljoen is now implying that his Government was authorised to violate the Incomati accord by the Mozambican Government, the idea being that the Mozambican Government wanted to have peace talks with the MNR bandits, who needed a little South African assistance. That was a good try by the General, but not good enough. Mozambique has always made it clear that it is ready to talk peace with the real chief of the terrorists, such as the South African authorities, but not with the small fry who take orders from Pretoria. Mozambique will talk to the snake charmer, but not to the snake.