

President Chissano Meets Botha

excerpted from A.I.M. release

Tete Province, Mozambique, September 12: Mozambican President Joaquim Chissano met with South African President P.W. Botha. Afterwards he issued a communique and held a followup press conference at which he indicated that the two sides had discussed a number of topics including Cahora Bassa, railways, and Mozambican migrant labourers in South Africa. Though the meeting was by all accounts a "cordial one," the Mozambican press reacted with a certain degree of skepticism about a future positive South African role given the history of South African government attacks on the Frontline States.

The communiqué referred to "practical steps" that the two sides had agreed on. These steps are a "reactivation and reinforcement" of the Nkomati Non-Agression Agreement signed between Mozambique and South Africa in 1984 and the upgrading of Maputo harbour "and promotion of its use" by South African importers and exporters, as well as the provision of Cahora Bassa hydro-electric power to South Africa. Also discussed were "road and railway connections between South Africa and Mozambique, questions of labour relations the employment of Mozambican mineworkers in South Africa, and the "question of the property formerly in the possession of South African citizens in Mozambique."

End Aid To RENAMO: Speaking at a press conference in Songo after his meeting with the South African Head of State, P.W. Botha, Mozambican President Chissano said in response to one query about South Africa's continuous violation of the terms of the Nkomati Agreement since 1984, that South Africa "has given us guarantees that it is not going to help RENAMO."

In a prepared speech Mr. Botha said the Cahora Bassa powerlines "represent the future and let no one who has the interests of South Africa

at heart disrupt them." President Chissano commented that Mozambique would be able to protect the Cahora Bassa power lines. Over 500 pylons along the transmission lines have been sabotaged by the MNR.

President Chissano indicated that although he believes apartheid to be the root cause of problems in the region, Mozambique, like other countries in the region, has attempted to work for detente with South Africa.

The Mozambican President said he did not expect any criticism from other African leaders for having met Mr. Botha: "My colleagues are aware of this meeting, and they will not criticize me," he said. "The only thing they expect of me is that I tell them whether the meeting went well or badly. If I wish, I will tell them more, but they will not even ask me what we have discussed."

Mozambican Press Skeptical: According to the Mozambican press, a "wait and see" attitude seems to prevail in Mozambique. One prominent Mozambican journalist, Albino Magaia, editor of the weekly Mozambican magazine *Tempo*, suggested that the meeting was an attempt on Botha's part to break the diplomatic isolation of the apartheid regime. He further noted that the benefit of the doubt can be given to South Africa if one considers the common sense demonstrated at the meetings between South Africans, Angolans, Cubans and Americans and the bearing that the new Angolan situation has on what Botha brings to the negotiating table in Mozambique. Magaia also pointed to the economic advantages for South Africa with respect to the low-cost electricity available from Mozambique's Cahora Bassa Dam which no doubt propels him to sit with Mozambicans at the negotiating table.

Perspective: Papal Visit to Mozambique

Pope John Paul II visited Mozambique from September 16-19 as part of a history making tour of five Southern African countries. Hundreds of thousands of people came out to see him, with many hoping his very presence would end the war. While in Mozambique the Pope was in Beira and Nampula as well as in the capital, Maputo. During a mass for 70,000 people at Maputo's Machava stadium the Pope called for an end to "the civil war" and supported Mozambique's call for more international emergency assistance. He also echoed the position of Mozambique's conservative Catholic bishops when he urged talks between the FRELIMO government and the armed bandits.

"It seems essential," he said, "to move to the road of dialogue for reconciliation which will end the shedding of blood between brothers and purify the environment of hatred and lack of love."

In response to the Pope, President Chissano stressed that the Mozambique government had long had a position of "reconciliation" and that under the general amnesty (effective through December, 1988) over 2,000 RENAMO bandits had laid down their arms and were being re-integrated into Mozambican society. (He could also have told him that "reconciliation" had been a cardinal aspect of FRELIMO's policies both during the war against the Portuguese colonialists and immediately after independence.) The President further said clearly but politely to the Pope that he hoped his words would "strike the consciences of these who promote war, those who practice terrorism, those who destroy the lives and property of the Mozambican people."

Rev. Allan Boesak perhaps best expressed the disappointment of many throughout Southern Africa who had hoped to hear the Holy Father un-

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Dhlakama To Visit USA

*Prepping RENAMO
For America's Wake-Up Shows*

According to various sources, the alleged RENAMO leader, Afonso Dhlakama, and others, have recently been taking a new type of course from their South African trainers. Assisted by U.S. businessmen and lobbyists, South African security personnel are trying to "Savimbi-ize" Dhlakama. They are teaching him how to speak, dress and behave when dealing with overseas leaders and journalists. The South African trainers acknowledge that their task will not be easy, as Dhlakama was discharged from FRELIMO's army and imprisoned for multiple theft, sexual assaults, drunkenness and general abusiveness. The course is preparatory to Dhlakama's planned world tour which will probably focus on Europe, Canada and the U.S.A.

According to Prexy Nesbitt, consultant for Mozambique, the pending tour of Dhlakama should be viewed in a particular context. The tour is part of an effort by the armed bandits to counter the world's growing knowledge of the rape and killing automatically associated with the RENAMO or MNR. (See the U.S. State Department 1988 Garsony report, available from the MSN, which holds RENAMO responsible for the murder of more than 100,000 civilians in the last two years.)

Another part of the RENAMO campaign to seduce the uninformed at Western breakfast tables is the current effort to open a RENAMO office in Britain. During the first week of September American RENAMO mouthpiece, Thomas Schaaf and Antonio da Rocha, a former Mozambique government official found guilty of embezzlement, were both in London trying to raise funds for a RENAMO office (dubbed a Mozambique Research Centre), to lobby journalists, and generally to promote RENAMO's image.

-William Crain (MSN Wisconsin)

Pope Visits Mozambique

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equivocally condemn apartheid and instead heard only obtuse and vague laments about "situations" where woeful violations of human rights persist." Rev. Boesak said, speaking about the Pope's general condemnations of violence in Southern Africa, "I would have liked the Holy Father to give a clear understanding of what drives people to violence. I would have liked to see some understanding of the 50 years of non-violent struggle [in South Africa]... an understanding of what it means [to a people in struggle] when 18 non-violent organizations are banned and church leaders are in jail."



Maputo, (AIM) President Joaquim Chissano speaking to the displaced persons, in Benga Center, province of Tete. Photo by Joel Chiziane (AIM87)

Leading US Health Officials Visit Mozambique

Stimulated by an earlier trip organized by the Boston Mozambique Support Network, a 14-person team of prominent U.S. public health officials, physicians, and other health care workers conducted a two-week fact-finding mission to Mozambique, where they documented the continuing destruction of Mozambique's public health care system by the rural terrorists of the so-called Mozambique National Resistance, or RENAMO.

The Mozambique Health Assessment Mission, funded by the Ford Foundation and organized with the technical assistance of the U.S.-based Mozambique Support Network and the Institute of Technology and Development, was conceived by Dr. David Hodges of Beth Israel Hospital (Boston) after a preliminary trip to Mozambique in February 1988.

Human Rights Violations Noted: The assessment team, led by Dr. Hodges and Dr. Woodrow Myers, Commissioner of Public Health for the State of Indiana, was composed of epidemiologists, attending physicians, pediatricians, emergency room and labor/delivery specialists, and public health administrators invited from around the U.S. The team traveled throughout the Maputo, Inhambane, Manica, and Sofala provinces between 8-20 August to document health and human rights violations committed since 1981 by the RENAMO *bandidos armados*.

Members of the team, which included Dr. Deborah Prothrow-Stith, the Massachusetts Commissioner of Public Health appointed by Democratic presidential candidate Governor Michael Dukakis, Dr. Herbert Nickens, Director of Minority Health Affairs for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and Dr. Bailus Walker, President of the 50,000-member American Public Health Association, met with their Mozambican counterparts and toured urban hospitals and provincial health posts, all of which were filled beyond maximum capacity with women, children, and elders who were victims of RENAMO's indiscriminate and savage attacks.

The doctors also witnessed the results of RENAMO's attacks on the town of Manhica (50 miles north of Maputo, the capital of Mozambique), where 21 people were killed and 22 injured, including a 3

year-old boy who was shot in the foot, and the village of Massinga, where several people were killed and a 4 year-old girl was hacked in the head with a machete. In general, the group was "stunned and overwhelmed" by the climate of violence in which the Mozambican civilian population exists.

"I expected to see the injuries that occur at war," said Dr. Deborah Prothrow-Stith. "But I didn't expect to see a 14 year-old girl with her left leg blown off by a land mine lying in the hospital next to a 15 year-old who also lost a leg to another land mine."

Dr. Bailus Walker expressed the outrage felt by the assessment team members. "What we saw at the Chicucue Hospital in Inhambane province (375 miles north of Maputo) were tomorrow's doctors, tomorrow's teachers, tomorrow's leaders and government workers all being destroyed by this senseless war."

The Reverend Joseph Washington, a senior human rights advisor to Boston Mayor Raymond Flynn and liaison for Boston's "Focus on Africa" Project and Joanne Ball, an award-winning investigative reporter for *The Boston Globe* also accompanied the delegation in their official capacities.

Mackie McLeod, Southern Africa Field Director for the Institute of Technology & Development and a founding member of the Mozambique Support Network,

has traveled with and coordinated two prior U.S. fact-finding delegations to Mozambique (November 1987 and February 1988). The Institute, which has sent more than 500 skilled volunteers to Nicaragua since 1983 through its TECNICA project, has been requested to start a similar skills transfer and technical training project in Mozambique and other Frontline States.

Hope For Congressional Aid: "We hope that the findings and recommendations of this health rights assessment mission will spur members of Congress to press for increased emergency rehabilitation and development aid to Mozambique and to demand the imposition of comprehensive sanctions against the root cause of all this misery, apartheid South Africa," McLeod says. "In addition, we hope to recruit other socially responsible medical personnel willing to respond to the medical emergency in Mozambique and who will help repair the injuries done to the Mozambican people by the agents of apartheid."

On September 15, the medical team released a report of their findings and recommendations. The report will be distributed to members of the U.S. Congress, the World Health Organization, the United Nations, and Pope John Paul II.

For copies of the report or more information, please contact Dr. David Hodges at (617) 735-4700 or Dr. William Wilkinson, City University of New York Medical School at (212) 690-8214.

Mackie McLeod, Boston MSN



Maputo, April (AIM) Lisbet Palme, wife of late Swedish prime minister Olof Palme, with President Chissano, during the inauguration of Olof Palme Avenue, Maputo, Feb. 29. Photo by Anders Nilsson (AIM88).

Election '88: The Candidates on Mozambique and South Africa

BUSH:

"I do not support further sanctions in South Africa. To imagine that we can impose a solution by taking further drastic unilateral measures shows a lack of understanding of South African realities. I think we need a more effective diplomatic strategy, which involves active coordination with Europe and Japan..."

"We should also give economic support to black South Africans. There are many things that we are doing and can do to help the black community, so long as we do not cut ourselves off from the country by ill-advised actions. We should continue to expand the many government and private initiatives underway to help black South Africans in areas such as housing, education and training..."

"The guerilla war in Mozambique is a tragedy. Serious charges of systematic brutality have been levelled against forces of Renamo, the rebel movement. The government of President Chissano maintains close ties to Moscow, but is moving toward the West. It has recently made market-oriented changes in the economy, returned church property, and increased freedom of

expression. I urge President Chissano to pursue this course with vigor. Ultimately, there is no alternative to a political settlement in Mozambique, and I urge both sides to accept that reality..."

DUKAKIS:

"As President, I will:

Toughen U.S. economic sanctions against South Africa and seek multilateral agreement with our allies for a more comprehensive trade embargo against that country, in the absence of agreement by the South African government to enter into prompt and meaningful negotiations for the abolition of apartheid and the creation of a non-racial South Africa...

"Stop U.S. aid to the UNITA rebels in Angola, recognize the Angolan government, and work towards creating conditions that will lead to the withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola and improved relations between Angola and the West..."

"Assist South Africa's neighbors, such as Botswana, Zambia, Zimbabwe and Mozambique, to attain greater economic independence from South Africa, and to become less vulnerable to South Africa's military and economic pressure, and support the efforts of the Southern African Development Coordination Conference (SADCC) to improve the lives of the 65 million Africans who live in its member states."

Local Update: Minneapolis

The founding meeting of the Twin Cities Mozambique Support Network took place in Minneapolis on September 20, 1988, with 20 people in attendance.

Meeting participants decided it was important to work closely with already-established Twin Cities anti-apartheid organizations, emphasizing the devastating impact of apartheid destabilization on South Africa's neighbors including Mozambique.

As one of its first actions, the group agreed to become a co-sponsor of a rally in support of the Dellums Comprehensive Sanctions Bill.

The meeting further discussed working with local churches, schools, and community organizations in the Twin Cities area that need speakers on Southern Africa, supplying them with a list of potential speakers. Possibilities for contributing Op-Ed pieces to local newspapers and establishing a telephone network for legislative alerts were also explored. It was decided that study sessions would be held to allow local MSN members to stay up to date on the situation in Mozambique, and information packets that members can use on their outreach activities will be assembled.

Mobilizing material aid for Mozambique was a major agenda item. Possibilities besides books, food, clothing, pencils, etc. were mentioned such as support for local development projects, food production, and the purchase of capital goods such as generators.

Betsy Schmidt



New Resources

The publications and materials reviewed here are available from the MSN National office, 343 S. Dearborn, Room 601, Chicago, Ill., 60604, (312) 922-3286 or 922-3915. (In some cases there are only limited copies)

The Religious Right in Southern Africa by Paul Gifford (Baobab Books and University of Zimbabwe Publications, P.O. Box 1559, Harare, 1988, 118 pp., \$5.00). At a point when Jimmy Swaggart tents, clothing, "piri-piri" and funds are everywhere in the Frontline States, this essential study documents in full the growing conservative evangelical churches' involvement all over the region. Moreover, it historically situates that involvement in terms of its origins in the United States and its earlier involvement in Latin America. Religious Right also draws out the fundamental well-spring for all the various conservative and racist evangelical groupings, anti-communism, and shows their linkages to various U.S.-based thinktanks, lobbyists and business elites.

Apartheid's War on Its Neighbours by the Sheffield City Council (Sheffield City Council, Town Hall, Sheffield, England, S12HH, 1988, 31pp., \$1.00). Based on material from a conference in May 1988 on "Building links with Frontline States," this inspiring pamphlet points the way for U.S. state and city governments which have divested to then begin concrete support of Frontline States. The keynote speech by Jorge Rebelo of Mozambique, "A Future for Our Children" reprinted in the pamphlet is one of the clearest analyses available in the English language.

The Roots of Hunger in Mozambique by Elmira Nazombe and John Prendergast (Blueprint for Social Justice, Institute of Human Relations, Loyola University, New Orleans, 1988, 8 pp., \$.35). In this short but excellent brochure the root cause of the problems in Mozambique, South African apartheid, is exposed and discussed. *Roots* does an especially good job of succinctly linking South Africa's economic warfare against Mozambique to the systematic campaign of massacres which the South African-backed bandits are conducting. Also examined in the brochure is the history of U.S. policy towards Mozambique.

Terrorism Also Kills and Destroys in Mozambique: Shocking Images by Mozambique Government's National Emer-

gency Commission (CENE/DPCCN, Maputo, 1988, 33pp., no charge). Written in Portuguese and English this booklet contains photographs originally presented to the United Nations April 1988 Conference on Emergency Assistance to Mozambique. The photographs are both stark and moving. They are different in that they are not just images of starvation and torture by the bandits but also demonstrate the strength, energy and vitality of the Mozambican people.

Malangatana T-Shirts Available.

Three new T-shirts with paintings by Mozambique's most renowned artist, Malangatana, have arrived in the MSN national office. Available in M, L or X-L, they are in limited numbers. \$10.00 each.

Defend Mozambique, Defeat Apartheid! Buttons. Made by a U.S. artist for the MSN, this button literally sings "Mozambique" with the red, green and yellow national colors. Available through the MSN office or your local MSN contact. \$1.00 each.

Amy Sullivan



Bicycles For Mozambique

Most people in Mozambique get around by foot. For want of vehicles, health posts are left without drugs, mobile vaccinations campaigns are not carried out, the sick are not transferred to clinics and accommodation centers are not visited. In many districts, food distribution is hampered by lack of transport, as is reconstruction and rehabilitation.

Bikes for Africa, a new project designed to help government and private development groups overcome their transport problems, is promoting new lightweight all-terrain bicycles and trailers to help alleviate this problem.

Four all-terrain bicycles, sent as prototypes, are already in Maputo and have been put to work in Morrumbala and Mopeia on reconstruction projects. They will soon be pulling two 200-kilo capacity carts designed and built by Bikes for Africa Project Director Eric Schulman for hauling materials in the construction of schools and health centers.

Bikes for Africa is seeking support for assembly, repair, load carrying accessories production and maintenance centers in existing bicycle repair centers.

To contribute to this effort or for more information, write: Bikes for Africa, PO Box 56538, Washington D.C. 20011 or call (301) 589-1810.



Maputo, May 1988 (AIM) Primary school students in Ile, Zambezia Province. Photo by António Muchave (AIM). "Our people are portrayed as victims, but often the fact and identity of the aggressor is left out of the picture, as is the courage and deter-

mination with which our people fight back against the South African onslaught, and rebuild their shattered homes and communities."

A Future For Our Children, Jorge Rebelo

Mozambique Support Network
343 S. Dearborn • Suite 601
Chicago IL 60604
312. 922-3286

The Mozambique Support Network is a not-for-profit organization that promotes and conducts educational campaigns, fund-raisers, emergency aid drives and other humanitarian efforts in the name of the People's Republic of Mozambique. Today Mozambique is under seige—South African-backed groups dubbed MNR or RENAMO but called *bandidos armados* by the people of in the country, have destroyed more than 1800 schools, hundreds of health care centers and villages, and left 5.9 million people homeless and destitute. The United Nations Children's Emergency Fund estimates that over 325,000 children have died as a result of the apartheid terrorists.

The MSN Newsletter is a publication the National Office of the Mozambique Support Network. We welcome your submissions and/or inquiries; address them to The Editor, MSN Newsletter.

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