

The Agreement of Cape Town relative to Cahora Bassa, that I have just signed on behalf of Portugal, is an important and symbolic landmark in the history of inter-African relations and in the broad framework of friendship between Europe and Africa. This city whose grounds were first sighted by Portuguese sailors and afterwards founded with the purpose of supplying water to the ships of the great international trade, finds again today its dimension of solidarity by linking its name with a significant sharing of energy for the benefit of the countries of the region and, in each one of them, for the radiation of light, of that kind which without distinction of any sort illuminates all men that come to this world.

A laborious route of dialogue, negotiation and compromise has been passed through in order to make us reach this point. When we had a dialogue in depth with President Machel, in October 1983, on the occasion of his unforgettable visit to Portugal, and when we argued for a direct dialogue between South Africa and Mozambique as a progressive way which would lead to the conclusion of an agreement on coexistence between the countries of southern Africa, on the occasion of the visit of Minister Pik Botha to Lisbon at the end of November 1983, we were offering the contribution of Portugal for the gigantic diplomatic, political, economic and strategic mutation that was the "Accord of Nkomati".

By subscribing now to the Agreement of Cape Town, which was negotiated in less than three months, Portugal has established herself as a protagonist of that climate of regional trust and of dynamic security and peace, adding to these the decisive component of the technology for development and the democratic engagement of Europe.

We have been loyal to the international financial commitments which we assumed on the account of Cahora Bassa.

We do not and shall not question the agreements relative to the project that we have with Mozambique and are prior to her independence. We shall fully respect the entailment we now assume together with Mozambique and South Africa on one of the largest hydro-electric potentials of the world. We do not want profit from Cahora Bassa — we just do not want loss. We neither want to continue to watch the absurd and scandalous situation of a fully equipped dam, paid with sacrifice by Portugal, and from which in the end nobody benefits.

Being a contribution of the Portuguese people to the progress of Africa, which is clearly a plurinational and multiracial receiver, Cahora Bassa is an enterprise which has a great economic dimension and that certainly will promote wealth and social progress in the region. It is an enterprise that will satisfy in the best local conditions the energetic needs of very important industrial areas in South Africa and vital regions of Mozambique. But Cahora Bassa has also a potential to develop in what concerns the possible diversification of supply to other eventual African clients. Thus it is of the utmost importance and urgency to establish the conditions for a continual and regular supply of energy from Cahora Bassa. Only in those circumstances and as a

result of the immediate benefits delivered, it will be possible for a generalized feeling of trust in the reliability of the enterprise to be established.

For this reason the eyes of the entire African continent and now, also the eyes of Portugal, are focussed on this country, which is today our host, and on the faithfulness which, I am sure, its leaders will maintain in the stabilizing evolution that is taking place in the region after "Nkomati" and of which, the commitment just now solemnly taken by us, is an expression. Let the "Accord of Nkomati" be respected, let the Agreement of Cape Town be fulfilled and the signal will come across for a new era of tranquility and peaceful evolution for all those who live in southern Africa and wish to build their future within the binding of solidarity. Portugal is proud to contribute and to participate in a commitment which is deeply changing the international relations and in which Africa assumes herself in her entirety without tutelage or guidance of any kind. My best wishes are that the effort made by Portugal will in the end mean peace and well-being for your countries, and for all who live in this region. Looking at the present and glancing at the future I am certain that Cahora Bassa is worth it!

Texts for items (A) to (E) issued by the South African Department of Foreign Affairs and Information. A full copy of the Contract wording is available from the SAIIA on request.