

Comment on Zaire's Participation in Frontline States' Maputo Summit

Azap in French 1848 gmt 13 Oct 86

October

Text of agency commentary datelined Kinshasa, 13th October:

CV 1515

Zaire's participation, for the very first time, in a summit of frontline states, at the invitation of the authorities of these states, is a clear sign of the interest and confidence placed in our country by the nations of southern Africa. In fact, as a result of its geopolitical position in the heart of the African continent and its proximity to the southern African states, Zaire is an interested party to the problems and developments in the situation of that region.

The common denominator between the frontline states and Zaire is that they use - or are bound to use - the same roads for the transport of their goods, both exports and imports. The reopening of the Benguela railway which leads to the port of Lobito in Angola, the security and transportation capacity of the Beira railway in Mozambique, and

the problem of congestion at the port of Dar es Salaam in Tanzania is therefore of concern to all these countries. The quadripartite summit meeting with Angola, Mozambique, Zaire and Zambia due to take place in a few days in Zambia will not fail to examine all these issues.

The Mozambican government has outlined a rehabilitation project for the road which leads to Beira and an increase in that port's capacity in order to handle the forwarding of a greater volume of goods to and from countries of the region. Zaire, which in the past has been using the port of Beira for part of its imports and exports, could envisage using that road again; hence the interest and importance of the discussions between our country and southern African countries to maximise their co-operation in transport issues.