

South African Comment Says Maputo Summit "Failed Dismally"

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Text of commentary entitled "More talks from Maputo":

Summit ends in failure has been a popular headline in newspapers in recent days. The headline refers, of course, to the meeting in Reykjavik. However, it could quite easily have referred to another summit held in Maputo between the rulers of Angola, Botswana, Mozambique, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe; for the Maputo summit failed dismally to provide the answers to the very serious problems facing the six countries concerned. All that those attending the meeting in Maputo could come up with were [as heard] the accusation that South Africa was concentrating troops along her borders with Mozambique and Zimbabwe and was preparing for war against the peoples of southern Africa.

The factual position is that it is routine action for the SADF to deploy troops in border areas on a continuing basis and for very good reason. Terror gangs of the ANC-South African Communist Party's combine are provided with sanctuaries in Zimbabwe and Mozambique from where they infiltrate across international frontiers to plant landmines on South African territory and perpetrate other atrocities; hence the necessity for military patrols in border areas and the necessity for South African counter-insurgency forces to neutralise terrorist structures in neighbouring countries when they pose too great a threat to innocent lives within South Africa.

It is also a fact that South Africa has repeatedly called on neighbouring countries to make such action unnecessary by refraining from hosting terrorist gangs. South Africa has repeatedly committed herself to peace in southern Africa and to ensuring peace through bilateral non-aggression treaties. Sadly, however, it seems that too many southern African rulers are addicted to violence and revolution. In Angola there is a brutal and violent war that has caused the deaths of untold thousands of people and turned many millions into hungry and starving refugees in the land of their birth. Mozambique, too, is engulfed in a blood-stained war as the Frelimo government fights against its own kith and kin against [as heard], the length and breadth of the country. Then there is Zimbabwe where the people of Matabeleland live in fear of their lives, because of the terrorism perpetrated in their communities by government troops.

The Maputo meeting turned its back on this internecine warfare and on the appalling conditions of starvation, disease, illiteracy and mass unemployment that plagues the sub-continent. In the process the peoples of southern Africa, the innocent men, women and children, have been condemned to yet further suffering and human degradation.