

B. AFRICA

MOZAMBIQUE: CHISSANO AND MOI BEGIN TALKS ON PEACE INITIATIVE

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Excerpts from report (ME/0515 ii)

The President of Kenya, Daniel arap Moi, arrived in Maputo this morning [21st July], heading a top-level delegation for a two-day visit during which he will hold talks with the Mozambican government leaders on current peace initiatives in Mozambique. President Moi has been invited to Maputo by President Chissano. . . President Chissano had this to say at the opening of the talks:

[Chissano]. . . The reason I invited you to come here is that I think that there is a wind of change again blowing in southern Africa, and we should make together analysis of the situation so that we may know how to control the change, so that we give it the right direction. We have to be part of this change, and, as you are my old man, you can give us a bit of your experience, of your wisdom. So, we thought that we should not delay, and we should meet so that we compare notes.

"We have many problems and many solutions ahead. Recently, we have been into Angola and Zaire to try and solve the problem of Angola. We, the Mozambicans, have played a small role, but we think that it counts for the successes attained there. We are also present in Namibia, where we are following closely the developments. We are in contact with the South Africans not only about the situation in southern Africa and in the independent countries, but also in Namibia and also about apartheid. So, a lot of things which we have to share [as heard].

"Now, we are preparing our congress, the party congress. We should start on Monday [24th July]. There, we are going to discuss a lot of issues pertaining to our search of peace in Mozambique, national unity, and of economic development. We will not have much time to share on this issue with you, but we hope that you will be following our meeting, our deliberations, even from Nairobi, and we will make sure that you get this information, but I may tell you from the outset that the expectations are very good. . .

On his part, President Moi had this to say: [Moi] "Well, Mr President, I just [words indistinct] first thanking you and the people of Mozambique for honouring Kenya to try and help solve the problem of Mozambique. Kenyans value peace because they see the benefits of peace within the context of development and other factors that govern the way of life of Kenyans and other people all over the world.

"I responded to your request that I [words indistinct] among the people of Mozambique on this very vital issue of peace because I believe that what is happening in Angola is affecting other areas of the region and of the continent and the world at large. It is not an issue of Mozambique, it is a human problem and, therefore, I responded immediately when you asked me to come here, because you are having the congress, which is important. . .

"And, because of what is happening within this region, the southern part of Africa, naturally you have heavier tasks. The country's your own country's, problems and the problems that face the southern part of Africa and elsewhere, which are part of us all. I happened to have some information about those who have been struggling against your government and so on and that is why (?followed) very keenly, of course with your knowledge also, so as to enable them to see light and know that, in order to build Mozambique, which you intended to do at the attainment of independence, is achieved [sentence as heard].

"So, I am very optimistic to say, to let you know, that they are willing to participate in peace talks between your government and themselves, and I hope they will do the best they can now to see the light and make sure that these discussions take place to enable Mozambican people to pursue peace. The impression I got on my arrival here was that the entire community of Mozambique wants peace. They do not want fighting and I am entirely with them in that sentiment. I am a believer of peace myself. It is a bit shameful for Africa to be fighting internally and that is why I believe that when I responded, I responded quite simply because I believe that Africa's problems must be solved by Africans themselves and that is why I feel that this matter, we can discuss it, we can solve it ourselves. . . I hope that our discussions, while here, will enable me to pursue the line that will enable the people of Mozambique to achieve peace and I come with all the goodwill from Kenyans to wish you, Mr President, and the people of Mozambique, success in these peace talks. . .