

S Africa-Mozambique Statement on Incomati Accord Talks (ME/7900/ii) ME/7901/83

(a) Johannesburg home service in English (i) 1700 and (ii) 0500 gmt 14 Mar 85 16/3/85

(i) Text of report:

South Africa and Mozambique have again committed themselves to the rigid implementation of the Incomati accord, signed on 16th March 1984. Our political staff reports that top-level talks between South Africa and Mozambique in Maputo today have averted the possibility of serious problems affecting the accord.

In a joint statement, the two delegations said both countries considered it extremely necessary that the Incomati accord be fully implemented to the benefit of development in the whole of southern Africa. In the statement, both governments expressed their concern over the increase of violent incidents in Mozambique and said ways had been discussed of bringing an end to these.

Our political staff says the discussions were also used to review the progress made since the signing of the accord. The South African delegation was led by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Pik Botha, and the Mozambican delegation by the Minister of Security, Col Vieira. The talks were the seventh of their kind during the past year, since

the establishment of the joint security commission between the two countries. Mr Botha was assisted by the Minister of Defence, General Magnus Malan, several deputy ministers and high-level defence force officers.

Note: Maputo radio (in English for southern Africa 1800 gmt 14 Mar 85) reported that the Mozambican and South African delegations today "reiterated their continued commitment to and full support for the Incomati accord. The joint security commission set up to monitor the implementation of the accord" met in Maputo today. The Mozambican side was led by Security Minister, Sergio Vieira and included Deputy Interior Minister, Teodato Hunguana and President Machel's personal assistant, Fernando Honwana.

(ii) Text of commentary:

On Saturday [16th March] the historic Incomati accord will be a year old yet it is concern rather than satisfaction that (?pervades) comment on the anniversary.

The unresolved security situation in Mozambique and hence the continued absence of the economic benefits that were to have accrued to that country have placed its government under intense pressure to reassess its position. As a result, there has evidently been an erosion of the mutual trust on which the treaty depends. The Incomati accord signalled a turning point, not only in relations between South Africa and Mozambique, but for southern Africa as a whole. It made a major contribution towards removing the super power conflict as an element in the affairs of the subcontinent by averting the prospect of Soviet militarism within Mozambique itself as well as through the ANC, and it provides a framework for a regional dispensation based on an acknowledgement of the sovereignty of member states and a desire to coexist peacefully and cooperate in economic development.

It was on those grounds that Western governments welcomed the agreement and expressed renewed interest in investment aid to the region. The failure of the accord would therefore have the most far-reaching effects on stability and development throughout southern Africa.

The essential foundation for the Incomati accord was the acceptance by both signatories of the legitimate security demands of the other. With it went a commitment not to permit any form of aggressive action from within the borders of either state against the other. For South Africa it was not only a diplomatic triumph, but the biggest breakthrough ever made against the ANC terrorism from neighbouring states. Within months terrorist incidents in the country, of which an estimated 60 per cent had previously been planned and launched in Mozambique, had declined sharply.

However, Mozambique, having paid a heavy diplomatic price in Africa, has not benefited similarly. For that country, suffering intense economic hardship, the greatest potential value of the Incomati accord lay in the economic cooperation and development projects which would result once stability had been restored.

It was assumed last March that the mutual undertakings on security would put an end to MNR [Mozambique National Resistance] subversion. That has not happened, and the economic benefits that depend on the reestablishment of peace have therefore not materialised.

Perhaps inevitably there had been increasing accusations from Maputo that South Africa is not acting effectively to stop aid reaching the MNR from this country. The South African Government has emphatically denied the charges. In January President Botha himself issued a strong warning that the Government would not tolerate violent action against Mozambique from South African territory and would act against persons who planned or perpetrated such violence. He singled out the MNR in pointing out the harm it was doing to the people of Mozambique and the interests of its neighbours.

Whatever the reasons for the present state of affairs, it is vital for all concerned - South Africa, Mozambique, southern Africa and the West - that it should be cleared up. None can afford to have the Incomati accord founder. To ensure that it succeeds and achieves the aims for which it was designed, mutual trust will have to be reestablished through action at the highest level.

Note: The South African agency, SAPA, in its dispatch datelined Cape Town, 14th March on the visit to Mozambique by the South African Foreign and Defence Ministers (ME/7900/ii), described the visit as an urgent attempt to salvage the Incomati accord and said: (Excerpt) "Diplomatic sources point out that there has been growing concern for President Machel's position within his Marxist government. His continued support of Incomati has been undermined by the MNR's activities while his more hardened Marxist lieutenants are seeking justification for severing the accord and readmitting the communist-backed ANC, who were expelled from Maputo immediately after the signing of the accord."

(i) Johannesburg in English for abroad 1500 gmt 14 Mar 85

Text of commentary:

It is a welcome development that high-level talks are being held again between South Africa and Mozambique on the Incomati accord. That there are difficulties with the accord nobody denies. But it is equally essential that they be sorted out and that the accord itself should not be placed in jeopardy.

It is, however, disturbing to note that, in a commentary, Radio Maputo blames South Africa's internal policies for the cycle of violence in southern Africa. The broadcast declares: [see ME/7900/B/3] When apartheid goes, peace will have a chance in southern Africa because apartheid is the root cause of aggression and destabilisation in the region.

The writer of that commentary should consider these facts: That South Africa had nothing to do with the fact that UNITA leader, Dr Jonas Savimbi, was kicked out of his rightful place in government in Angola and took to the bush. It was caused by internal discontent. And the people who are fanning the flames of war in Angola today are the Soviets and their Cuban surrogates.

The internal unrest in Zimbabwe, with thousands of Matabele being slaughtered by Prime Minister Mugabe's forces, is once again caused by internal problems, and is not of South Africa's doing. It was not South Africa which cancelled the general election in Lesotho in 1970, which led to the formation of the Lesotho Liberation Army as the militant wing of the Basotholand Congress Party, and the subsequent violence against the Jonathan Government.

Similarly, the existence of Mozambique National Resistance, Renamo, in Mozambique, is not of South Africa's doing. Were this country in control of Renamo, then violence would have stopped immediately at the signing of Incomati a year ago. Yet, repeated appeals by South Africa for Renamo to cease its violence and repeated attempts by South Africa to bring about a cease-fire, have failed.

But there is another disturbing aspect of the Radio Maputo commentary, particularly where it refers to South Africa's internal policies in the context of an analysis of the state of the Incomati accord. The Incomati accord has nothing to do with the internal policies of either South Africa or Mozambique. It does not demand that South Africa change its policies, just as it does not demand that Mozambique change its policies. The great advantage of the Incomati accord is that it cuts through ideological differences and puts them aside for the sake of fruitful cooperation between the two countries. For that reason, the Incomati accord is a realistic one. It should be kept that way.

Note: The 'Rand Daily Mail' reported on 14th March that rebels opposed to Mozambique's Frelimo Government said there would be no more South African-chaired peace talks between themselves and Maputo, because President Samora Machel's

SWB

ME/7901/B/6

16 Mar 85

Government was "doomed". Mr Jorge Correia, European spokesman for the Renamo rebel group, said in Lisbon yesterday that the war would be taken to its "ultimate conclusion" and the Government would fall before Mozambique's 10th anniversary of independence in June. He said that President Machel would either be assassinated or put on trial "to account for the way he has run the country", the paper concluded.