

S African Foreign and Defence Ministers on Implementing Incomati Accord

(a) Johannesburg home service in English (i) 1700 gmt 16 Mar 85 and (ii) 0900 gmt 17 Mar 85

ME/7903/B5 19/3/85

(i) Excerpts from report (ME/7902/ii):

The Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Pik Botha, said on his return to Pretoria this morning from Maputo, where he had informed the Mozambican Government of the activities of a gang which had close links with the Mozambican Resistance Movement [Renamo] that the South African Government was still doing its utmost to bring about a cease-fire and peace in Mozambique.

Mr Botha referred to various matters and also to the pressure being exerted on the Incomati accord at present. Mr Botha said that during the talks in Mozambique over the past week, there had been long discussion over the accusation that South Africa was violating the accord. He emphasised that the Mozambican Government had never accused the South African Government of not fulfilling its obligations under the accord. The Mozambican Government had, however, expressed concern at the assistance Renamo was receiving from source [as heard] in South Africa. [Passage omitted.]

Mr Botha also confirmed at the news conference that South Africa and Mozambique had recently agreed to install radar along the border to track aircraft which were crossing the border without clearance. Mr Botha said that Mozambique was equally concerned about the help that Renamo was receiving from Malawi and other countries in southern Africa.

Mozambique had also expressed concern at the military units near the South African-Mozambique border and the presence of certain Mozambicans in these units. The Minister of Defence, General Magnus Malan, who accompanied Mr Botha on his visit, gave Mozambique the assurance that he would transfer the individuals and units in question elsewhere or discharge them from the Defence Force.

Note: Malan's statement noted in ME/7902/ii was reported by Johannesburg radio (in English for abroad 1100 gmt 17 Mar 85) as follows: (Text) The South African Minister of Defence, General Magnus Malan, says he has indicated to the satisfaction of Mozambique that he will transfer or remove completely certain Mozambicans in the South African Defence Force. General Malan was speaking after discussions between

South African and Mozambican delegations in Maputo. He said the Mozambicans had expressed concern about the presence of South African military units near the border between the two countries. They had also expressed concern about Mozambicans in these units. General Malan said he had given instructions that Mozambicans, about whom there had been objections, should no longer be taken up in the South African Defence Force, not even as labourers. On the other hand, South Africa had conveyed to the Mozambican Government its concern about moral support that was being given to the African National Congress. He said that the Mozambican Government had been told that South Africa was aware of the presence in Mozambique of National African Congress [as heard] elements which were planning or could plan violence and subversion in South Africa.

(ii) Text of report:

The BBC has quoted a Mozambique National Resistance movement spokesman in Lisbon as saying that allegations made against the movement by the South African Foreign Minister, Mr Pik Botha, are an invention aimed at discrediting the organisation. Mr Botha said yesterday that Renamo was being funded by an international group of businessmen who wanted to turn Mozambique into a private economic preserve. He said the businessmen were hostile to both President Samora Machel and the South African Government.

(b) Johannesburg in English for abroad (i) 0630 gmt and (ii) 2100 gmt 17 Mar 85

Excerpts from report:

[At his press conference in Pretoria the Foreign Minister said that] although South Africa's relations with Renamo were strained, South Africa would continue to consult with the Frelimo Government and Renamo.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs also confirmed that South Africa and Mozambique had recently agreed to install radar along the border to spot aircraft crossing the border without proper clearance. He said that in the short time in which the radar had been in operation, two aircraft had been traced flying over Mozambican territory without clearance. One was from Mozambique and the other had been from Swaziland to Mozambique. But, he said, there was still concern about a third aircraft, which had taken off from South Africa's eastern Transvaal province and had flown to Inhaca island off Maputo. This flight was still being investigated.

(ii) Excerpts from report:

The South African Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Pik Botha, says the full implementation of the accord of Incomati is being hampered by the continuing war in Mozambique. . . . Speaking on a radio programme in Cape Town, Mr Botha said the war had been raging in Mozambique before the signing of the pact and the South African Government had not underestimated the difficulties. The tempo of the conflict had apparently increased, making the full implementation of the Incomati accord more difficult. Mr Botha said tourists were reluctant to visit Mozambique because they feared for their safety, and international investors remained wary because they were scared that their return on investment would be affected. He said Mozambique's transport infrastructure was not working too well because of the conflict and this adversely affected Mozambique's imports and exports. Referring to repeated allegations that the former Portuguese colony had been forced into the Incomati accord, Mr Botha pointed out that President Samora Machel himself had seen the pact as an ideal way to help his people.

Note: Capital Radio, Umtata (in English 0800 gmt 17 Mar 85), said: (Text) South African Foreign Minister, Mr Pik Botha, says the war in Mozambique appears to be intensifying. The Foreign Minister told a news conference in Pretoria yesterday that it seems the Mozambique National Resistance movement, Renamo, was operating over an increasingly large area and that attacks were becoming more frequent. [Botha - recording] It is a vast territory, it is sparsely populated, large parts are not really habitable. It is difficult to get correct information. We get conflicting reports. What I do know is that the Mozambique Government itself told us, only on Thursday [14th March], that the violence has increased. That we know. The violence has increased. They say they are now in a worse position than a year ago. [End of recording.]

(c) 'Sunday Times' Johannesburg, in English 17 Mar 85 p 2

Excerpts from report by Brian Pottinger and Wim Vanvolsem:

A corps of private security guards - likely to number several hundred - is to be established in Mozambique to defend key installations against rebel attacks. The move - hinted at by Foreign Minister, Pik Botha, yesterday - is an attempt by Mozambique and South Africa to escape the mutual political embarrassment of having regular SADF [South African Defence Force] combat troops in Mozambique. It is also an attempt by Pretoria to forestall increasing Western pressure on South Africa for a military commitment in defence of Incomati.

Plans to establish a private security corps have been under consideration for some time and ESCOM [Electricity Supply Commission] is understood to be recruiting men to protect the Cahora Bassa powerlines frequently sabotaged by MNR [Mozambique National Resistance] rebels.

At a press conference in Pretoria yesterday, Mr Botha rejected suggestions that regular SADF combat units should be sent to Mozambique but raised the possibility of the creation of private security corps to guard powerlines and installations. The calling in of professional soldiers to guard installations is a mark of the critical situation in which the Incomati accord . . . finds itself.