

Mozambique's Chissano Says End of Apartheid the Only Way to Peace

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Excerpts from report.

This week is being marked in Mozambique as peace week as part of this country's contribution to the UN International year of peace. At the week's first special event - the ceremonial planting of trees at the New Peace Park in Maputo - Foreign Minister Joaquim Chissano spelt out Mozambique's commitment to the search for peace ... [He said] among the causes of war are expansionism institutionalised racism, colonialism and foreign occupation. All of these are very much in evidence in southern Africa today in the shape of apartheid and South African aggression against neighbouring states.

As Mr Chissano pointed out, to struggle for peace in southern Africa means to struggle for the eradication of the apartheid system. Only the elimination of apartheid will enable the people of South Africa to win their freedom, the people of Namibia to win independence, and the people of the whole region to restore peace, progress and co-operation.

Peace is much more than the mere absence of war. It requires the defence of national independence, the elimination of all threats to territorial integrity and promotion of the development and well-being of the people. As Mr Chissano noted last Sunday, the people of Mozambique have always shown themselves ready to take up arms in defence of their peace ... [Reference to "Portuguese colonialists" and "Rhodesian invaders".]

Today Mozambique faces a terrorist onslaught carried out by armed bandits in the pay of South Africa. The struggle for peace therefore means fighting and eliminating the terrorists. This is not a war that the Mozambican people wanted. It is a war imposed on them by foreign forces bent on the destruction of the independence the Mozambican people fought so hard to win. Mozambique will never surrender its independence for a sham peace. Real peace and independence are indivisible.