

ANTI-MUGABE RADIO CONTRASTS MOZAMBICAN AND ZIMBABWEAN MEDIA ATTITUDES TO S AFRICA

Radio Truth in English 0430 gmt 30 Sep 88

Text of commentary:

In contrast to the belligerence of our government [the Zimbabwean government] listeners to the Mozambican radio stations will have noted a distinct drop in hostile propaganda against South Africa. This became apparent after an agreement was reached between Portugal, South Africa and Mozambique to revive the Cahora Bassa project, and, even more dramatically, since the historic meeting between Presidents Chissano and Botha. It would seem that an instruction has been issued by Frelimo's Ministry of Information to cease negative propaganda directed at the Pretoria regime.

In the case of our parallel ministry, the very opposite is happening. In conjunction with the pro-Marxist news agencies based in Harare, the psychological war on South Africa has become more venomous, more intense and more effective.

In Mozambique also, there has been some softening of attitudes with regard to negotiations with Renamo. Our sources indicate that Frelimo's Central committee and SNASP [People's National Security Service] security agency, believe that dialogue with the resistance movement could achieve certain objects. At the moment, they would confine the agenda to talks about the amnesty and rehabilitation, but at least this is a step in the right direction. Substantive discussions on a political settlement could well follow at a later date.

On the battlefield, our ZNA [Zimbabwe National Army] contacts have reported setbacks in the joint offensive against the Renamo stronghold in the Gorongosa region. Some of the ZNA forces that took part in the initial four-prong circling manoeuvre had been withdrawn because of Renamo's interdiction of the logistic routes. This happened to the assault force moving from Chimoio to Catandica and those probing northwards from Beira via Dondo were engaged by the MNR at Semacueza. Most of the troops pulled back, but then redeployed on protective duties on the Beira Corridor.

Copyright (c) 1988 The British Broadcasting Corporation.