

Pik Botha Rejects Mozambican 'Hypocrisy'

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[Text] Cape Town Feb 18 SAPA—The South African Government had had enough of the hypocrisy of the Mozambique regime of President Joaquim Chissano and would expose it at every opportunity, the South African minister of foreign affairs, Mr Pik Botha, said tonight.

He said Mozambique would first have to pay attention to its security situation, education and health before it could participate in any southern African conference.

Mr Botha was reacting to remarks addressed by President Chissano to visiting French foreign minister, Mr Jean-Bernard Raimond, saying that a conference of southern African leaders could not take place before there were further changes in South Africa.

Mr Botha said the South African Government had come to the conclusion that, in the light of President Chissano's stance, "such a conference indeed had not much hope of success before certain changes had taken place in Mozambique." "For example, that country has never had an election, and the Mozambique Government must first pay attention to the issue of security in Mozambique before a conference can take place."

The South African Government was deeply concerned about the educational situation in Mozambique which had virtually come to a standstill, as well as the health situation—particularly in respect of malaria.

"The Mozambique Government is not aware of the wishes of the overwhelming majority of its people and rules the country by force, which is contrary to African traditions and norms. As a result...the Mozambique Government must first prove that it has discarded foreign ideologies before it can qualify to participate in a southern African conference.

"As regards the Mozambique Government's remarks concerning South African support of Renamo, it is known that President Chissano told Dr Franz-Josef Strauss, prime minister of Bavaria, that elements from South Africa were not the most important source of support for Renamo, but that the most important support came from Portugal, France, Brazil and other countries. I hope President Chissano discussed this urgently with the French foreign minister.

"It leaves a bad taste in one's mouth that President Chissano asked Dr Strauss to request that more Mozambicans work in South Africa, while he adopts a holier than thou attitude with the French foreign minister concerning circumstances in his own country.

"The South African Government has had enough of this hypocrisy and will expose it at every opportunity."