

## B. AFRICA

### **S AFRICA: RADIO SAYS DE KLERK-CHISSANO MEETING POINTS TO "NEW DIMENSION" IN REGIONAL CO-OPERATION**

*(a) Radio RSA in English for abroad 1100 gmt 13 Jul 89*

*Text of commentary*

There is little doubt that southern Africa is currently experiencing one of the most positive periods in its history. The climate for peace and co-operation within individual countries and across borders has probably never ever been more favourable.

To a large extent, this more positive climate can be attributed to the historic trilateral south-western Africa peace accord between South Africa, Angola and Cuba in terms of which Namibia is to become independent and the Cubans are to be withdrawn. The agreement was preceded by months of negotiations and deliberations – not only between the three countries involved, but a host of others as well, many of them African nations. During this period President P.W. Botha of South Africa visited Mozambique, Malawi, Zaire and the Ivory Coast for talks with the respective heads of state.

Relations between South Africa and Mozambique in particular have improved considerably since the meeting between President Botha and President Chissano. the Nkomati Accord signed between the two countries five years ago has received a new lease on life as a result, and trade and other relations between Pretoria and Maputo are at an all time high.

Now comes the announcement that Mr F.W. de Klerk, the leader of the National Party in South Africa and the man designated to be the country's new president after elections in September, is to have talks with President Chissano in Maputo next week. The meeting at this time is particularly significant in the light of the fact that Mr de Klerk had talks three weeks ago with British and European leaders, and that he is to meet American leaders in Washington later this month.

Internal peace in Mozambique is something world leaders are anxious to see, and the subject was discussed between Mr de Klerk and British and European leaders. It will undoubtedly be discussed with him also in Washington.

With his visit to Maputo next week, Mr de Klerk will be in a position to inform President Chissano of his discussions with the British and European leaders, and at the same time he will be able to report to American leaders later this month of his talks with President Chissano. In this way, South Africa will again be playing a positive role in developments in the region in which it is a major factor.

*(b) Radio South Africa, Johannesburg, in English 0500 gmt 14 Jul 89*

*Text of commentary*

New development in interstate relations in southern Africa have followed one another so closely in recent months that the perspective on the overall situation tends to become blurred. The forthcoming meeting between the new leader of South

Africa's ruling party, Mr F.W. de Klerk, and President Chissano of Mozambique gives a focus to the dramatic changes that have taken place in the diplomatic scene during that time. That the meeting has been generally welcomed as appropriate, and even inevitable, underscores the part that the two countries have been playing, separately and together, in promoting the new regional dispensation.

It also draws attention to the emergence of a new dimension in the region's progress to closer co-operation between states. Lately, there have been increasing calls for South Africa to move beyond bilateral efforts to improve relations, and take part in a multilateral initiative to give coherence to the concept of a regional dispensation. First mooted late last year by President Mobutu Sese Seko of Zaire and President Houphouet-Boigny of Ivory Coast, they have since been repeated on several occasions by Zambia's President Kenneth Kaunda. The region's problems could not be resolved without South Africa's participation, he said in April.

The logical outcome of such declarations was the convening some time or another of a regional summit conference attended by South Africa. The expectation has been strengthened by South Africa's presence at most of the peace initiatives that have taken place in the last few months, including the Zaire meeting on achieving peace in Angola. So it comes as no surprise that the senior foreign affairs official who was present at that meeting, Mr Glenn Babb, this week described the meeting between Mr de Klerk and President Chissano as a precursor to a summit of southern African leaders towards the end of the year. The Mozambique leader was playing a crucial part in arranging the summit, Mr Babb told 'Business Day'.

For years, development economists have talked about the prospects for growth in southern Africa if South Africa were included in an economically integrated community of states. It is too soon to speculate on such an outcome, but clearly that is the direction in which the realities of the subcontinent are taking governments. Southern African countries, like many others in the continent, have suffered severe economic dislocation as a result of implementing doctrinaire socialist policies. Years of economic deterioration have obliged governments to change to free market policies and adopt more realistic attitudes in regional diplomacy.

The catalyst that brought the shift to a head was South Africa's participation in the historic peace settlement for south-western Africa. That brought about a dramatic reassessment of South Africa's role in the subcontinent, from which has flowed an accelerating increase in diplomatic and trade contacts.

The climate for creating a genuinely co-operative dispensation, dedicated to promoting the stability and development of southern Africa, has never been better.