

MOZAMBIQUE: CHISSANO NOTES REDUCED S AFRICAN SUPPORT FOR MNR, COMMENTS ON NAIROBI TALKS

Radio Mozambique, Maputo, in Portuguese 1730 gmt 22 Nov 89

Text of report

President Joaquim Chissano said in Manica today that the government of the People's Republic of Mozambique is in constant contact with South Africa within the framework of efforts to end once and for all assistance given to the armed bandits by some South African sectors.

The Mozambican head of state explained that as a result of these contacts, this support which seriously violates the Nkomati accords signed years ago by the two countries' governments, has declined. President Chissano was speaking today at a mass rally he presided over at the Guro district headquarters here in Manica province, where he is on a working visit after visiting Tete.

The supreme leader of the Mozambican nation explained to the thousands of people present at the rally that due to the reduced South African support for the bandits, the armed bandits are now in despair and are resorting to killing more people with machetes and axes because they don't know what to do.

The Mozambican head of state also said that division reigns within the ranks of the Pretoria government due to the support given to the terrorists. He added that the regime will come to the conclusion that it is necessary to be on the side of the Mozambican people, who so greatly desire peace.

Chissano said that Mozambican officials have made it very clear to Pretoria that if we achieve peace, we can work together to develop Mozambique and South Africa itself. He referred to efforts made by Mozambique's officials to restore peace in our country. It is within this framework that the government in 1985 called on the armed bandits to abandon their weapons and to return to their homes because they would be forgiven. This invitation became more real following the approval of the amnesty law in 1987. Because of this, in 1988 alone over 3,000 terrorists surrendered to our authorities.

President Chissano said that we forgave the bandits who surrendered because they are sons of this land who were deceived by the enemies of our independence. President Joaquim Chissano explained to those at the rally that many elements of the so-called MNR are people who have been kidnapped from their villages, trained, and thereafter forced to kill.

The President also referred to the Nairobi meetings between Mozambican religious officials and the armed bandit ringleaders. These contacts are being held on the basis of 12 principles defined by our officials and which in particular urge an immediate end to every kind of violence against the civilian population.

The armed bandit ringleaders have rejected the 12 principles, pointing out that they will continue with their terrorist activities until the government recognises the so-called MNR as a political party. President Chissano pointed out, however, that despite this position of the armed bandits, everything will be done to persuade the terrorists to listen to the message of peace.

The Mozambican head of state said that as we continue with our diplomatic struggle, we shall intensify the struggle against the armed bandits on the battlefield, inasmuch as, he noted, we cannot remain passive and allow them to continue to kill the people. Accordingly, he added that we are reorganising our armed forces so that they can fully carry out their mission. He said that despite the difficulties facing our soldiers, they have done very positive work. He noted that as a result of this work, the People's Armed Forces for the Liberation of Mozambique [FPLM] were this year able to retake some of the areas that had been occupied by the bandits, as is the case with Tambara district. He said the people must also organise themselves to defend their property.

Guro district, where President Chissano was speaking, has over 14,000 war-displaced people and 25,000 war-affected people. These people are resettled in five centres found in the area. These centres are facing the problems of food shortages, inasmuch as the number of the needy has been increasing as the FPLM continues to free more people from armed bandit captivity.
