

*Obs. This document was circulated by the South African
Trade Mission in Maputo some time early in 1989.*

SOUTH AFRICA/MOZAMBIQUE: A CURRENT PERSPECTIVE

Introduction

In accordance with a new South African initiative intent on pursuing peace and stability in the Southern Africa region, past months have witnessed a historic period of positive diplomatic interaction between the RSA and its neighbours.

One of the principle participants in this regional initiative has been the Peoples' Republic of Mozambique.

Recent times have seen a revival of the spirit of regional co-operation - the linchpin in the quest for military/political reconciliation and peace on the sub continent.

However, despite South Africa's sincerest intentions and manifest attempts at initiating a new era of regional détente, it is currently being threatened by elements intent on sabotaging this vital process.

This concern was raised by South Africa at the meeting of the reconvened RSA/Mozambique Joint Security Commission.

In the interests of accuracy, and in order to maintain the situation in its correct perspective, the following media information package has been prepared for dissemination.

BACKGROUND

After Mozambique gained independence from Portugal in 1975 the existing consular relations between Mozambique and South Africa were replaced by a South African trade and industry official with no formal consular status. Customs and transport services offices were also maintained.

In December 1983, Mozambique accepted the upgrading of the South African trade office through the re-establishment of control of the office by the department of foreign affairs.

Meetings and other bilateral relations, particularly on the subject of security, continued and reached a level where the two governments decided to sign the Nkomati Non Aggression Accord on 16 March 1984.

In terms of the Accord a Joint Security Commission (JSC) was established to monitor any breaches of security by either side.

A Nkomati Operational Centre was set up at Komatipoort, where security officials of both countries met daily to exchange information on the situation in the border area.

In 1985 the JSC was dissolved when Mozambique withdrew, claiming that there had been a breach of the Accord. However, the suspension of the JSC did not affect the activities of the Nkomati Operational Centre, which continued to sit every day at Komatipoort to provide a forum for discussions on border violations between South Africa and Mozambique.

Two years later, in August 1987, relations between the two countries improved and culminated in a meeting between Foreign Affairs Minister Pik Botha and Mozambique Co-Operation Minister, J C Veloso.

At the meeting in Cape Town it was decided that a Joint Liaison Committee (JLC) would be formed to meet regularly on matters of mutual security and economic concern.

Subsequent meetings have been held between South Africa and Mozambique on the re-establishment of the Cahora Bassa hydro electric scheme and a successful trilateral conference including Portugal was held in Pretoria in November 1987, with follow-up meetings in Songo (Mozambique) in February and in Lisbon in June this year.

On 26 April 1988 President Chissano's personal envoy, Minister Veloso, met with State President P W Botha in Cape Town. Both parties exchanged messages of goodwill and agreed to instruct their JLC delegations to hold discussions on questions relating to the reconvening of the Joint Security Commission as soon as possible.

As a result the JSC's first meeting since 1985 took place on 7 July 1988 in Pretoria. The South African and Mozambican delegations confirmed decisions taken at the JLC meetings not to promote violence against one another and undertook to cast aside allegations and counter allegations of the past.

CURRENT

The second meeting of the reconvened South Africa/Mozambique Joint Security Commission took place on 15 November 1988 at Maputo in Mozambique.

The meeting was convened to discuss, among other matters, South Africa's concern at the recent upsurge of acts of violence in Mozambique.

The interpretation of these events could have cast doubt on the sincerity of South Africa's commitment to improved relations with Mozambique. The South African delegation, mindful of prevailing conditions in the region and determined to ensure the success of the recent thaw in the relationship between the two countries, felt it necessary to broach the matter at the earliest possible opportunity.

Also on the agenda were several items relating to security matters affecting both countries i.e. Cahora Bassa, as well as discussions pertaining to the refugee problem and border control.

In view of recent developments the South African delegation believes it necessary to provide background information aimed at placing the situation firmly in its correct perspective.

THE ACCORD

It is necessary at the outset to reiterate South Africa's position with regard to the provisions of the Nkomati Accord.

In this respect South Africa has:

- Refrained, and this point should be noted, from providing aid or assistance of any description to the RENAMO resistance movement in Mozambique.

- Decided to supply substantial quantities of noncombatant military equipment and supplies to the Mozambique government to contribute towards the stabilisation of the country's security and economic situation.
- Pursued an active policy of encouraging and assisting the Mozambique government in its plans for national reconstruction.

SOUTH AFRICA'S COMMITMENT TO MOZAMBIQUE

The following list of recent developments are provided to help illustrate the extent of South Africa's commitment to peaceful development in Mozambique.

- The establishment of a Joint Co-operation and Development Commission (JDC) was approved by President P W Botha of South Africa and President Joaquim Chissano of Mozambique during their historic meeting at Songo on 12 September 1988. On the South African side the deputy minister of foreign affairs, J Meiring, will act as co-chairman.
- The ongoing arrangements for the eventual flow of electricity from the Cahora Bassa dam.
- The Joint Security Commission has been revived after three years of inactivity.
- The upgrading of Maputo harbour has been given added impetus. The original South African loan of R3 million for the preparatory phase of SAFTO's master plan for the port has been augmented with a further loan of R3 million with the agreement being signed in Maputo on 20 October 1988.
- A port steering committee meets monthly, alternatively in Maputo and Johannesburg, to control the allocation of funds from the abovementioned loan for specific work in the Maputo port.
- A delegation from the Mozambican railways will soon visit South Africa to promote the use of the Maputo port by South African exporters.
- Nkomati Corridor: Plans have been drawn up for the construction of a road from Komatipoort on the South African side of the border to Maputo by South African and Mozambican engineers.
- The South African minister of transport affairs has been invited by the Mozambican minister of transport to visit Maputo in the near future.

- South Africa and Mozambique recently renewed the joint fishing agreement for a further three years.
- In the field of health care, bilateral discussions have taken place and the Mozambican minister of health has accepted an invitation for a Mozambican health delegation to visit South Africa. A patient programme for Mozambique has been approved and the first Mozambican citizen to benefit by these arrangements was the former minister of health, Dr Fernando Vaz.
- The South African geological survey is assisting the Mozambique mineral bureau with surveys.
- The new building of the South African trade mission was inaugurated by South African foreign minister, Pik Botha, on 25 October 1988. This event was attended by two Mozambican ministers and two deputy ministers. On the same day Ministers Botha and Du Plessis both laid wreaths at the Louis Trichardt Memorial commemorating the 150th anniversary of the death of the Voortrekker leader. The ceremony was also attended by representatives of the Mozambican government.
- The Mozambican minister of labour is to visit South Africa soon for talks with the South African minister of manpower. They will visit labour training centres in Durban and Cape Town preparatory to the establishment of similar centres in Mozambique with assistance from the South African government.
- Officials of the Mozambican nature conservation authorities recently participated in a seminar offered by the Endangered Wildlife Trust in Johannesburg.
- Preparations are being made for a study of development possibilities for Bazaruto Island.
- The citrus cooling facilities in the Maputo port, which were erected with South African finance before Nkomati, will be upgraded soon with further financing from South Africa.
- A donation of chlorine for water purification in Maputo has been arranged with South African government finance.
- SAPPI is progressing with a feasibility study for a forestry project in southern Mozambique. The study is financed from South African sources.
- South African Breweries has reopened a match factory which they managed before Mozambican independence. They are also interested in entering the brewery industry in Mozambique.

- On security matters daily meetings between South African and Mozambican defence force representatives have been ongoing at the Nkomati Operational Centre. In addition, General Fondo, head of the Mozambican border guards, and General Bisschoff of the SADF have met six times since February 1988.
- South Africa and Mozambique are establishing informal border crossing points to facilitate family and other visits. In time training and rudimentary health facilities will be established at these points.

INCIDENTS

The following is a list of known incidents which have occurred in recent weeks in the Maputo province of Mozambique near the South African border.

23.10.1988:

Mortar attack on the Sabie/Nkomati agricultural research station. Two Italian officials and one Mozambican veterinarian were kidnapped.

24.10.1988:

The RSA/Maputo powerline sabotaged about 15 km from the RSA border.

27.10.1988:

A second attack on the Sabie/Nkomati research station during which the target was the veterinary complex on the other side of the river. The complex was plundered and 120 breeding cattle stolen.

30.10.1988:

An attack on a settlement near the Makwakwa border post.

30.10.1988/2.11.1988:

Sabotage of the Goba railway line to Swaziland. A locomotive destroyed in the explosion.

30.10.1988/2.11.1988:

An attack on the town of Massingir in Gaza province.

2.11.1988:

Ressano Garcia/Maputo railway line sabotaged. Derailment of the train as a result of an explosion and the death of eight passengers and 35 wounded in the ensuing rifle fire.

3.11.1988:

Bridge blown up on the Ressano/Garcia railway line about four kilometres from Moamba in the direction of Komatipoort.

3.11.1988:

The RSA/Maputo powerlines again sabotaged.

In addition, 60 to 80 towers of the Cahora Bassa line in the area north of Chimoio have been sabotaged in Manica province since the last inspections were conducted.