

B. AFRICA

PRESIDENTS DE KLERK AND CHISSANO HOLD NEWS CONFERENCE IN MAPUTO

Radio Mozambique, Maputo, in English 1100 gmt 18 Dec 89

Text of report on news conference held in Maputo on 15th December by South African President de Klerk and Mozambican President Chissano, broadcast during the "Outlook Africa" programme on 18th December (ME/0642 ii)

First, Mr de Klerk explained the agenda of his talks with Mozambican President.

[De Klerk - recording] We had in-depth discussions. They were frank and open, and positive and constructive. We dealt with, on the one hand, matters of bilateral interest - practical matters affecting the relationship between our two countries. On the other hand, we also concentrated on the needs of the region of southern Africa. We concentrated inter alia on the need for a pragmatic approach, for the need to build on common interests which we all share in southern Africa, bilaterally and multilaterally.

We also discussed the impact of what is happening, especially in central and Eastern Europe, on Africa. And I would like to say we came to the conclusion that it is necessary that we take cognisance of what is happening there and that we realise that unless we in southern Africa also find a way to co-operate, especially in the economic sphere, we might find ourselves between fires in that regard. And therefore, our two countries, as far as South Africa is concerned, will continue expanding our co-operation and, on the basis of non-interference in each other's internal affairs, will continue also to address in our discussions, from time to time, the need for wider co-operation in the region between also our two countries and other countries.

Mr de Klerk was then asked whether he's got the entire support of the South African Defence Force for his policy.

[De Klerk - recording] There is no question that the South African Defence Force is loyal to the country, to the Republic, and there is no rift between the government and the Defence Force of any nature whatsoever.

Would Mr de Klerk comment on the last declaration by the South African Defence Minister, Magnus Malan, about the country's Defence Force's involvement in the destabilisation of neighbouring countries?

[De Klerk - recording] I doubt whether he stated it in exactly that way. South Africa is constructive in its approach with regard to southern Africa. I have been part of the government for many years, and we have never adopted the policy of destabilisation.

In his introduction, Mr de Klerk said: We discussed with Mr Chissano matters which affect the relationship between the two countries. Which, Mr de Klerk?

[De Klerk - recording] Well, obviously we have a common interest with regard to economic co-operation, with regard to such matters as Cahora Bassa; South Africa taking the supply of electricity which can be generated there; the

need to ensure that there will be continued supply of such electricity; practical matters, such as improving the actual situation on the ground for the flow of people and goods between Maputo and South Africa. That sort of practical things.

Questioned about whether they discussed about the peace process in Mozambique, Mr de Klerk replied:

[De Klerk - recording] We talked with regard to the problems on a basis of non-interference, yes. Mozambique has certain problems; we have certain problems. We are involved, as Mozambique is involved, in efforts and initiatives to improve internally the situation, and as neighbours we have an interest, but on the basis of non-interference. Yes, we had a discussion and exchanged information in that regard.

What does Mr de Klerk have to say on South Africa's support to the MNR bandits?

[De Klerk - recording] I can just categorically say that the government of South Africa does not aid Renamo [MNR] in any way whatsoever. We have an open society. We do not monitor the private sector to that extent. They are free to move things, to lodge flight plans. I therefore cannot give a categorical undertaking that nothing happens from private sources inside South Africa, but I give the assurance that we are against that and that we will take whatever reasonable steps we can to prevent that because it is our policy that it must not take place.

Mr de Klerk was also asked whether he was afraid that the MNR could eventually turn its guns against South Africa:

[De Klerk - recording] I am not afraid of anything. It sounds [pauses] I don't want to sound a strong-armed man, but really, I do not live in fear, I do not lie awake at night because of any fears. What is important is that legitimate governments should talk to each other in building out co-operation in the region. What is important is that in those countries where you do not have the situation of full internal reconciliation, that efforts should be made to attain reconciliation, so as to reach a situation in all the countries of southern Africa where all the attention and energy can be focused on the development tasks which we have, instead of misuse on dividing that energy and fighting amongst each other.

Mr de Klerk declined to reveal the issues he discussed with the jailed ANC leader, Nelson Mandela.

[De Klerk - recording] I have not made public the contents of our discussions and I do not intend to do so today.

[Unidentified correspondent - recording] Why?

[De Klerk - recording] For the simple reason that I have had the discussion and it is not a public discussion.

President Chissano then explained that Mozambique supports changes in search of eliminating the system of apartheid in South Africa.

[Chissano - recording] And we encouraged all the efforts which the government of South Africa and President de Klerk may be taking in order to ensure that apartheid and racial discrimination are eliminated in South Africa. We encouraged also all the groups and forces which are fighting for that to

take advantage of all that is positive and build upon that for a speedy dismantlement of apartheid. So, I don't think that we can be guided by conservatives and extremists within a world of change.

President Chissano was asked to express his feeling about the changes now taking place in South Africa.

[Chissano - recording] Well, I feel that there are positive changes and we encouraged them, and, as I said, we are prepared to do our best in order to build upon them, in order to bring more changes which may make it possible for the democratisation, the true democratisation of the country, at the interest of all. I mean that no minorities are going to be oppressed by a majority in exchange of the oppression of the majority by a minority.
