

B. AFRICA

SOUTH AFRICAN COMMENT ON DE KLERK'S "SUCCESSFUL" VISIT TO MOZAMBIQUE

Radio South Africa, Johannesburg in English 0500 gmt 21 Jul 89

Text of commentary

The extended three-hour meeting between the leader of the National Party, Mr F.W. de Klerk, and President Joaquim Chissano of Mozambique has been hailed by both sides as significant and successful. President Chissano even went as far as foreseeing that South Africa could be welcomed as a full member of the southern African community of nations.

Of even greater significance that the meeting itself, however, is the new and hopeful southern African political climate in which it took place. In essence, Mr de Klerk's Maputo talks were a follow-up to the earlier visits to Mozambique and other southern African countries by State President P.W. Botha and the Minister of Foreign Affairs when a Marshall plan for southern Africa was first mooted by the South Africans. Then, as in Wednesday's [19th July] talks, the various conflict situations in southern African countries and a reaffirmation of the principles of the Nkomati accord were discussed. Superficially, the attitudes and expectations engendered by Mr de Klerk's visits abroad and his pronouncements since being elected leader of the National Party on his vision of domestic political and constitutional development, are similar to those which prevailed when President Botha initiated his domestic reforms, signed the Nkomati accord and met African and European leaders. What has changed significantly is the greater readiness to accept South Africa's good faith, a growing realisation at home and abroad that negotiated settlements have a far greater potential for producing results than continued confrontation, as well as a willingness to emphasise common ground rather than points of difference.

Previously, South Africa's relations in southern Africa and further afield tended to be characterised by a great deal of suspicion, that the government was less than sincere about real domestic reform, about bringing South-West Africa/Namibia to independence and about not aiding Renamo [the MNR] or destabilising the southern African region. Several important developments have aided the change of climate, including the constructive role played by South Africa in bringing about the peace accords for south-western Africa, her impeccable behaviour in implementing the independence plan in South-West Africa/Namibia, and President Botha's meeting with Mr Nelson Mandela.

There is ample evidence of the new climate. It is perceivable in the favourable response Mr de Klerk has elicited from people like Mrs Thatcher, Chancellor Kohl and Mr Herman Cohen; in President Kaunda's renewed statement that he is anxious to talk to Mr de Klerk at any time; and in the declarations by Mr de Klerk and President Chissano that they want to play a positive role in one another's countries.

Especially noteworthy in this context is Mr Chissano's public acknowledgement that the South African government is

not aiding Renamo and Mr de Klerk's unequivocal message to Renamo to end violence and negotiate. New windows of opportunity for political, economic and social co-operation and development are clearly opening for southern Africa. About those concerned being fully aware of this, there can be little doubt.

SOUTH AFRICAN FOREIGN MINISTER DISCUSSES REGIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

Radio RSA for abroad in English 1500 gmt 20 Jul 89

Excerpts from recording of interview with Pik Botha on 20th July

[Botha] Mr De Klerk gave his vision of the future South Africa and southern Africa, what steps he had in mind to carry on with important reform measures. My impression was that President Chissano welcomed his views. The two leaders got on well together, understood each other. So, I am very pleased, on the whole, with this very important meeting, yesterday, in Maputo. We enjoyed President Chissano's hospitality, had a very good lunch afterwards, and we returned to South Africa with a feeling of greater hope, encouragement, and, well, all in all, a very, very good day, as far as I am concerned.

[Q] Following the settlement which was reached for independence for Namibia and the withdrawal of Cuban troops for Angola, you must be very pleased with efforts in Angola this moment to reach national reconciliation between the MPLA government and the UNITA movement.

[A] Very much so. That, to me, is a very, very important event because the independence process for Namibia alone would not guarantee peace in that whole region. So, with these first steps taken on the road of a cease-fire and that of reconciliation within Angola itself, this is good news, good news for Africa. . .

[Q] How important do you rate Dr Kaunda's formal and open invitation to talks with Mr de Klerk, whenever, if it would please the National Party leader?

[A] Very important. I think this is another major step forward as an indication of the greatest of readiness on the part of responsible African leaders to wish to communicate directly. This is a good sign. This is in line with my government's attitude as well. I believe that President Kaunda could have been influenced positively by the events in Namibia, the fact that the peace plan here is being implemented. There are also other African leaders who have sent invitations to Mr de Klerk, and whether we will be able, due to his very full programme to fit in and make arrangements to visit these African countries before the election, that becomes more and more doubtful, but, certainly, we would wish to make use of these invitations as soon as possible and after this election. . .