
Visitors and delegations abroad

South African Foreign Minister
Roelof Botha visited Maputo on

1 November to attend a ceremony at which his wife, Helena Botha, formally inaugurated a residential complex built for staff of the South African Trade Mission.

Botha told reporters at Maputo airport that the Pretoria government was unable to guarantee that logistic support could not reach the Renamo bandits from South African soil.

He claimed it was "impossible" to guarantee effective patrolling of the South Africa/Mozambique border. "No government in Africa can guarantee that its borders are not crossed", he said.

Asked if this meant that the South African government was unable to stop arms shipments entering Mozambique, Botha replied: "We are not aware of any such situation. If we become aware we will stop it".

During his stay Botha met with President Joaquim Chissano with whom he discussed the violence prevalent in both South Africa and Mozambique.

Mr Chissano told reporters afterwards that "we discussed how to expedite the process of peace". He said that Botha had told him of South African President F.W. de Klerk's efforts to end the violence in South African black townships, while he had briefed the South African minister on the peace talks between the Mozambican government and Renamo.

Asked how South Africa could assist the peace initiative in Mozambique, Mr Chissano said "South Africa has been doing what is appropriate for any outsider - which is to encourage both sides to go into talks. Mr Botha assured me they have done this".

Mr Chissano said that relations between Mozambique and South Africa had improved considerably because of the reforms undertaken by the de Klerk government. "What was keeping us apart was the question of apartheid", he said. "Now that the government has started a dialogue with the ANC, has freed prisoners, and has lifted the state



President Chissano meets with Roelof Botha on 1 November (AIM/Alirio Chiziane)

of emergency, it is appropriate for us to move closer towards the South African government".

The Trade Mission's residential complex, consisting of 19 houses, catering facilities, a swimming pool, and tennis courts, faces Maputo's Costa do Sol beach, a few kilometres from the centre of the city. It has been named "Helena Park" after Mrs Botha.

About 90 South Africans, all of them white, accompanied the Bothas to the ceremony, including journalists, businessmen and staff from the South African Department of Foreign Affairs. The Mozambican government was represented by Trade Minister Daniel Gabriel and Labour Minister Agular Mazula.

The large quantities of food and drink consumed at the lunch immediately following the inauguration all came from South Africa. Although Mozambique produces shellfish that have an international reputation for quality, all the prawns and lobsters consumed were ferried in from South Africa.

Even the bar staff and waiters were South Africans. There was nothing Mozambican about any-

thing in the ceremony except the location.

The band entertaining the guests even played a piece of Portuguese colonial music, written by José Maria Tudela, a Portuguese opponent of Frelimo, who fled from Mozambique at the time of independence in 1975.

Mozambican Cooperation Minister **Jacinto Veloso** addressed the annual investment conference organised by the South African weekly paper, the *Financial Mail* in Johannesburg on 1 November.

He declared that the current international and regional situation was "a stimulus" for cooperation among states, and stressed that SADCC (Southern African Development Coordination Conference) was already an example of successful regional cooperation.

He said that SADCC had recently welcomed an independent Namibia as its tenth member, and that it hoped a democratic South Africa would soon join its ranks, once the policy of apartheid was finally abolished.

South Africa had "much to give and much to receive" in the integrated economic development of southern Africa, said Mr Veloso.

"The time has passed in which the policies of states were guided by concerns of defence and security, often in contradiction with the people's interests", he continued.

Present at the *Financial Mail* conference were also representatives of the Pretoria government, and of the liberation movement, the ANC.

The President of the Comoros, **Saïde Mohamed Djohar**, visited Maputo for a "private and friendly" visit on 25-26 November, during which he held discussions with a Mozambican delegation led by President Joaquim Chissano on possible forms of cooperation between the two countries.

Mr Djohar said there were opportunities for "wide-ranging cooperation", and even suggested that Mozambique could supply the Comoros with electricity through an undersea cable.

A delegation of **British parliamentarians**, led by Michael Jopling, of the ruling Conservative Party, visited Mozambique from 30 October to 2 November, as part of a tour of southern African countries.

The delegation visited the central province of Zambezia, and held discussions with Transport Minister Armando Guebuza, the Chairman of the Mozambican Parliament, Marcelino dos Santos, and the commander of the army, Lt-Gen Tobias Dai.

President Joaquim Chissano also received the delegation and briefed them on his government's attempts to re-establish peace in Mozambique.