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IN A FRIENDLY ATMOSPHERE

A dinner was given in honour of Joaquim Chissano, President of the FRELIMO Party and President of the People's Republic of Mozambique, on behalf of the Soviet leadership in the Grand Kremlin Palace on August 3.

Together with Joaquim Chissano the dinner was attended by members of the Mozambique Party and State delegation headed by him.

From the Soviet side the dinner was attended by M.S. Gorbachev, L.N. Zaikov, V.P. Nikonov, N.N. Slyunkov, E.A. Shevardnadze, P.N. Demichev, N.V. Talyzin, D.T. Yazov, A.F. Dobrynin, Vice Presidents of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, Vice Chairmen of the USSR Council of Ministers, Ministers of the USSR, Chairmen of USSR State Committees and other officials.

Mikhail Gorbachev, General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, delivered a speech at the dinner.

Speech by Mikhail Gorbachev

Dear Friends, Comrades,

Comrade Chissano is well known in the Soviet Union. He has visited our country several times. The first time, if I'm not mistaken, was about twenty years ago.

Today we are welcoming him in our country at the head of a Party and State delegation in the Kremlin in a new and very important capacity, President of the FRELIMO Party and President of the People's Republic of Mozambique.

We highly value friendly relations that have been established between our parties and countries. These relations are rooted in the hard years of the Mozambican people's national liberation struggle throughout which the

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Soviet people's sympathies and support were on your side.

These feelings remain unchanged today when the point at issue is relationship between two independent sovereign states linked for more than ten years by the Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation.

You may rest assured in the future as well of our solidarity, of an honest and open approach that is not directed at obtaining any unilateral advantages either in your country or in the region on the whole.

We have adhered to principles of respect for other peoples' interests and strict non-interference in their internal affairs throughout the 70 years of the existence of the Soviet state. In the same way we carefully maintain loyalty to solidarity with the just struggle of peoples in other countries for freedom and national independence, for social progress and peace.

You have come to our country at a very important and interesting period in its development which we call restructuring. I am sure that even in the course of your brief stay you will see the positive changes taking place in the life of Soviet society.

All this cannot but influence the world situation in general. After the known aggravation of the international situation which confronted mankind with an increased danger of a world-wide catastrophe the pointer of the political barometer is now wavering. Though not as quickly as we would have liked, it is tilting towards an improvement of the international climate.

If what actually will be the first international agreement on the elimination of whole classes of arms - American and Soviet nuclear medium-range and theatre missiles - becomes possible, then the prospects of advance to a more reliable and in the long run a non-violent and nuclear-weapon-free world will become brighter. In any case the Soviet Union is making huge efforts for this, and not in words but in deeds.

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There are yet many difficulties along this road. The shortage of new political thinking has as yet been overcome by far not everywhere. But we draw confidence in the correctness of the chosen road in the clearly expressed will for peace of the Soviet people, in the growth of the social consciousness of millions of people in the West and East, in the South and North, in the activity of the nonaligned movement which has still more firmly shown itself to be a major political force of our time. The decisions of the just held 23rd session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organisation of African Unity also speak of striving for lasting peace.

We are for all these powerful streams to merge in one channel facilitating the creation of an all-embracing system of international security that would encompass not only the military but all the main fields of mutual relations of states.

For instance, the presence in international economic relations of such potentially explosive factors as the inequitable exchange, indebtedness or other forms of the neocolonialist plunder of developing countries is fraught with upheavals capable of jeopardizing universal peace.

One involuntarily comes to the conclusion that imperialism acts here as a double-faced Janus. With one hand it provides money to developing countries, while with the other, it immediately robs them of it and reaps, besides, enormous profits that accumulate in the vaults of transnational corporations.

Use is being made of the attachment of newly-free countries to the markets of former colonial powers, established for decades, and pressure through various counter-revolutionaries, collaborationists and renegades, and so on and so forth which is included in the notions of neocolonialism and neoglobalism. It is not by hearsay that Mozambique knows about that.

It seems that the question of defusing conflict

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situations in the world has never been so urgent as today. Much is already being done in this direction.

In Afghanistan, the policy of national reconciliation is beginning to yield results. The idea of holding an international conference on the Middle East as the only possible way leading towards a comprehensive and fair settlement is gaining an ever increasing following.

The international community has turned at last to more vigorous actions to put an end to the bloody Iran-Iraq war.

In the Central American region, the Contadora group, defying US resistance, is asserting itself ever more firmly as the vehicle for the peaceful endeavours of the population in that part of the world.

I must say with regret that there is no progress, no advance in solving the problems accumulated in the South of Africa. The immoral and inhuman anachronism of modern history in the form of the apartheid regime, the unceasing aggressive actions by the Republic of South Africa against the "frontline" states, the rightlessness and colonial oppression of the people of Namibia - such are the disheartening features of the situation in the south of the African continent.

The picture, no doubt, would long have been different were it not for the protection and patronage given to the South African racists by imperialist forces. They like to present their policy in the South of Africa as something constructive. But if anyone has any reason to assess it positively, it is only the rulers in Pretoria. As to the peoples of the region, this policy brings them only new calamities and suffering.

How in these conditions can one question the justness of the struggle conducted by the "frontline" states, the patriots of South Africa and Namibia under the guidance of their recognised political leaders - the ANC and SWAPO?

The collapse of apartheid is ineluctable. But we are not supporters of the "the worse the better" thesis. There

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is no doubt at all that an elimination of the racist system by way of a political settlement would be in the interests of all South Africans - both black and white. One should look for and find the road to such a settlement. It is time at long last for Pretoria to understand this as well. New ideas, a fresh approach and collective efforts are needed. For understandable reasons the opinion of our Mozambican friends on these questions is of invaluable importance for us.

We know that Mozambique, a potentially rich country with substantial natural resources, is encountering serious difficulties at the present stage of its development. The sores inherited from the colonial past and the negative phenomena generated by South Africa's actions to destabilise the young state, by the barbarous actions of bandits like the bloody crime perpetrated in the Mozambican settlement of Homoine, have intertwined in a single knot.

As in the past, our solidarity and support are on the side of the people of Mozambique which is upholding its freedom and independence, and strives to put an end to poverty and economic dislocation. And if your country, just as some other emergent states, does not want to link its further destiny with capitalism this is your choice and other states should respect it.

Soviet-Mozambican relations, their entire spectrum - politics, economy, culture, military questions - are constantly in the Soviet leadership's field of vision. The strengthening ties between the CPSU and the FRELIMO Party play a cementing role here.

Much has been done in various fields of bilateral cooperation. But if we approach this self-critically, we should recognise that even more will have to be done: to raise the efficiency of cooperation, its practical returns, to search for new forms and methods. The efforts of both sides will be needed here.

You can rest assured that the Soviet Union intends

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further to pursue the course of developing cooperation with people's Mozambique, will strive for it to be increasingly more fruitful.

We wish you, dear Comrade Chissano, all the Mozambican comrades accompanying you, great success in your complex and noble activity. We wish the people of Mozambique peace, happiness and prosperity.

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Joaquim Chissano made a reply speech.

Speech by Joaquim Chissano

Strong fraternal links between the FRELIMO Party and the Communist Party of the Soviet Union determine the harmonious development of relations between the People's Republic of Mozambique and the Soviet Union, he said.

The Mozambican leader noted with satisfaction that over the ten years since the Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation between his country and the Soviet Union was signed, their cooperation has gained both qualitatively and quantitatively. "The search for peace and prosperity on the basis of protecting and consolidating the country's independence remains the main task of our policy," he said.

"The realization of this ideal has been complicated by incessant destabilizing actions of the Pretoria regime against our country and other nations in Southern Africa," Joaquim Chissano went on to say.

"Pretoria is continuing an undeclared war against our state with the help of armed bandits who commit inhuman acts of terrorism against our people and destroy economic and social facilities, aggravating the already catastrophic consequences of natural calamities," he said.

Speaking of the Mozambican leadership's measures to take the country out of the grave economic crisis, Joaquim Chissano said the heart of the current program for economic rehabilitation is agricultural advancement to achieve

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self-sufficiency, produce raw materials for the national industry and export surplus farm products.

He expressed gratitude to the Soviet people for their many-sided assistance to the Mozambican people at this exceptionally difficult moment in the struggle with backwardness and banditism.

Pointing to the alarming situation in Southern Africa, Joaquim Chissano held the apartheid regime wholly responsible for it.

"Economic advancement, social progress and welfare of the peoples and countries of our region are inseparable from the stamping out of the vicious apartheid system and abolition of the relations of dependence forced by colonialism. So, the People's Republic of Mozambique pools its efforts with the efforts by other states which are victims of this dependence, and joins the fight for economic independence by way of regional cooperation within the framework of the Southern African Development Coordination Conference (SADCC), Joaquim Chissano said.

Abolition of apartheid in the Republic of South Africa is the key condition for ensuring lasting peace and security, for honest and fruitful cooperation among the countries in the region in the interests of harmonious socio-economic advancement, the Mozambican leader said.

He declared for an end to the arms race, for space and the world's oceans to be put at the service of progress rather than converted into a military bridgehead from which the threat of the globe's extinction would emanate. Time demands that resources and scientific and technical advances serve to prolong life rather than annihilate mankind, Joaquim Chissano stressed.

He welcomed the constructive proposals for reducing medium-range missiles in Europe, specifically the decisions made in Berlin last May at the latest meeting of the Political Consultative Committee of the Warsaw Treaty member-states.