

Afghan 'Model' for Angola, Mozambique Considered
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[“Studio-74” program, presented by Igor Potovski]

[Excerpt] The quadripartite talks in London between Angola, Cuba, South Africa, and the United States have had repercussions throughout the world. The attention paid to the talks is understandable and legitimate, especially given the current situation in which the road of political dialogue and the [words indistinct] have proved their important and promising nature, as in the case of Afghanistan and in part the case of Nicaragua, maybe the most striking examples of regional conflicts which have lasted for several years. Will dialogue also be as effective in resolving the conflict in southern Africa, a conflict no less deep and dangerous? Probably it is not worth making long-term predictions, but today the U.S., British, and French media are unanimous in their (?skeptical attitude) toward the solution of the conflict in southern Africa through these talks.

As the French LE MONDE noted, in the opinion of most experts progress is hindered by Pretoria's demand for the participation of UNITA [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola] in the Government of Angola. This is not an isolated demand. Behind it is a very worrying tendency. You have only to remember that not so long ago South Africa made calls for Angola to be ensured prospects for settlement in accordance with the Afghan model, or in other words, to recognize UNITA as an independent political opposition force.

As for Renamo [Mozambique National Resistance], its place in South Africa's (?plans) is different. Pretoria not only does not attempt to promote this group as a national political force but even opposes attempts by U.S. conservative circles that would like to see Renamo as a political alternative to Frelimo [Mozambique Liberation Front] But this is the position now. I think that (?not everyone has forgotten) when South Africa sought to impose talks with Renamo on the Frelimo government through its own mediation. A curious fact: As is known, in the struggle for control of Renamo against the United States, which is willing to recognize this group as a (?potential) anticommunist Mozambican government, South Africa is increasingly leaning on the FRG. However, as some of that country's officials acknowledged, the federal departments have contacts both with Frelimo and Renamo to establish dialogue between the warring sides. This is why it is probably not advisable to categorically judge South Africa's position toward Mozambique. (?Just as the African countries), Angola and Mozambique agree in principle with the resettlement process in Afghanistan and (?there are) attempts to compare the situation there with that in southern Africa.

It is with this question that I would like to start my interview with Studio-74's guest, Atanasio Dimas, editor of the Mozambican newspaper DOMINGO.

[Begin Dimas recording] Well, the Afghan situation in my view differs quite a bit from the situation in Angola and Mozambique. The Afghan situation existed—or, let us say, there was a movement opposing the established government. This movement was recognized by the very government. The situation in Mozambique is different. There is no liberation movement. There is no organized movement. There is simply a war promoted by South Africa.

Well, what methods does it use? A variety: direct aggression, economic aggression, even armed aggression through the armed bandits. This is why there can be no comparison between the Afghan resolution and the problem we face in Mozambique, because in Mozambique we do not have an opposition war as in Afghanistan, as perhaps we can to some extent say in Nicaragua. But in Mozambique we do not have an opposition. What we have is destabilization created by South Africa, which in my opinion by no means wants to set up a government in Maputo. South Africa from my viewpoint does not want to place a puppet government in charge of our country. It wants to gain time so that its internal problems and the apartheid problem can be sidestepped and forgotten (?for a while). [passage omitted] [end recording]