

Zimbabwe President Mugabe Continues Visit, Talks

Gives Dinner Speech 3 Aug

*MB0408162088 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese
1118 GMT 4 Aug 88*

[Report on Zimbabwe President Robert Mugabe's response to President Chissano's dinner speech in Maputo on 3 August]

[Text] President Robert Mugabe began his response by thanking the warm and fraternal welcome accorded him and his delegation in Maputo. Mugabe said that this reception makes him feel at home in Mozambique, and he added that Mozambique was in fact his second home. The Zimbabwean head of state affirmed that this is his first official visit to Mozambique after Samora Machel's death. Mugabe said that with Machel's death the enemy hoped to drown Mozambique into chaos and extinguish its popular revolution. However, he added that the enemy failed to see that, with the death of Samora Machel, it was creating millions of Machel's both in Zimbabwe and in Mozambique.

Later, President Robert Mugabe referred to historic ties between the two countries. He stressed that our relationship was sealed with blood, cultural ties, geography and a common cause. Mugabe added that Mozambique's past and present survival is vital for Zimbabwe's independence today.

The Zimbabwean head of state saluted the Mozambican Army's gains on the battlefield and President Joaquim Chissano's diplomatic offensive which, according to him, has shown the true dimension of banditry in Mozambique.

Turning to the ongoing quadripartite talks, Mugabe said he hoped that South Africa would be serious about the need to withdraw its forces from Angola and the need to implement the UN Security Council resolution on Namibia's independence.