

Chissano addresses rally in Nampula province

Maputo home service in Portuguese 1730 gmt 8 Oct 88:

In reply to fears raised by a Nampula resident at a mass rally at the Northern Railway Central (? Square) today, Joaquim Chissano, Frelimo Party Chairman and President of the People's Republic of Mozambique said

[Chissano recording] We would like to clarify that if a militiaman, policeman, soldier, director, administrator or governor begins to harass anyone who has voiced his or her views at this rally, he is going to lose his post. What is more, he will be punished. [end of recording] ...

On intentions expressed by some forces that the Mozambican government should negotiate with the armed bandits, President Joaquim Chissano asked about 40,000 people at the Nampula rally 'Do you believe I should accept negotiations with the armed bandits to end the war?' The people at the rally replied firmly No, almost in unison. Chissano said that was the reply he received in all the provinces that he has visited. The Mozambican Head of State said that some Mozambicans and foreigners asked him to create a small place for the armed bandits in the Mozambican government. President Chissano's answer to them was that that was impossible because 14m Mozambicans do not want that ...

Copyright (c) 1988 The British Broadcasting Corporation.