Chissano Calls for Greater Unity in 1989

[Text] In Maputo this afternoon, Mozambican President Joaquim Alberto Chissano gave a reception to national senior officials and cadres on the occasion of the New Year. From Ponta Vermelha Palace, a more detailed report by Custodio Inacio:

In Maputo this evening, Joaquim Chissano, chairman of the Frelimo Party and president of the People's Republic of Mozambique, said that 1989 will be the year of the fifth congress and that 1988 marked the beginning of qualitative and positive changes in all aspects of our lives. To that end, he said that our national unity is very important and that we saw this unity grow in an extraordinary manner in 1988.

According to President Joaquim Chissano, who was speaking to members of the Frelimo Party Political Bureau, the Frelimo Party Central Committee, and the People's Assembly Standing Commission as well as to other party and government officials on the occasion of the New Year, this unity has gone beyond Mozambique's borders. We feel it in the Mozambican communities outside the country. We also believe that this growth in national unity has even been keenly felt among the armed bandits. That explains why growing numbers of citizens are abandoning the bandit ranks, President Joaquim Chissano affirmed. This means that there is trust in the Frelimo Party and in the power [words indistinct] and President Joaquim Chissano added that it also means that we, officials from various party and state organs assembled here, are confidently facing up to our responsibilities.

President Joaquim Chissano said that we must renew our vows to make the year of the fifth congress the year to which the people have aspired most. This must be a year in which achievements must be even more tangible, a year in which our unity will consolidate even further, and a year in which each Mozambican, each citizen wherever he may be, will contribute to our people's development and to peace in our country.