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MOZAMBIQUE

~~BRITAIN~~



POLICIES
FOR PEACE

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POLICIES FOR PEACE

President Joaquim Chissano explains

The People's Republic of Mozambique is a non-aligned African country which, since its Independence in 1975, has played an active role in the United Nations, the Organisation of African Unity and the Non-Aligned Movement.

Some basic aspects of Mozambique's foreign policy are explained in the following edited extracts from interviews granted in 1987 and 1988 to various Western press correspondents by the President of the Frelimo Party and President of the People's Republic of Mozambique, Joaquim Alberto Chissano.

On Mozambique's foreign policy

In Mozambique we pursue a policy of good relations with all countries of the world. We proclaimed this policy at the time of our Independence, and our Constitution and our Party's programme are both very clear on this question. We work to improve our relations with all countries.

Traditionally Mozambique and the national liberation movement on which the post-independence Frelimo Party was founded has enjoyed cordial relations with the socialist countries. Concerning the Western countries, most of them, particularly the NATO members, were hostile to us during our fight for independence. So initially they were wary of establishing relations with us. We therefore had to approach them, to make them understand who we were and that we were open to the establishment of relations of friendship and cooperation. And we may say that this has yielded results.

Today, even the United States and Great Britain have moved closer to us to the point that we can describe our present relations with these two countries as friendly. There are still some groups in the United States who are hostile to us, but the Government has a different position. This is the fruit of intense diplomatic work undertaken by our government, which was initiated by the late President Samora Machel.

We are well aware that despite the fact that the administration has changed its policies towards us, we continue to have enemies in the United States. So our efforts continue. We go to the United States and speak with anyone. When I go there I speak even with the

ultra-conservatives - the most right-wing Republicans - because I believe that with sufficient explanation one day these people will be able to understand and accept our position. We don't have any reservations about telling them who we are because on one thing we are in agreement with them: to be a puppet is always a bad thing.

In order to establish such relations with these two countries, was it necessary for Mozambique to prove that it was not in the Soviet camp?

We showed that we are an independent country, but principally we pointed out that good relations were in the best interest of all of us. Obviously, every country acts in accordance with its own national interests. We got these two countries to understand that we would respect their interests and do nothing that could be used by one country against another, we would not be the pawn of one country against any other. Our foreign relations policy is very clear on this question and is based on the long experience of foreign relations acquired during our struggle for national liberation.

During our fight for Independence, for example, relations between China and the Soviet Union became extremely tense. However, we managed to maintain good relations with both countries, a situation which continued after independence. This is only feasible when a country maintains its own personality and does not shift from one position to another in response to solicitations. We are Mozambicans promoting the interests of Mozambique and to that end cooperating with all countries.