

Mozambique

Chissano Addresses Independence Reception

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[Speech by President Joaquim Alberto Chissano at a reception marking the 13th anniversary of Mozambique's national independence in Maputo on 25 June—recorded]

[Excerpts] Comrades, members of the Frelimo Party Political Bureau, members of the People's Assembly Standing Commission, members of the Council of Ministers, members of the diplomatic corps, dear guests, friends, ladies and gentlemen: Today, we celebrate Frelimo's 26th anniversary and the 13th anniversary of the proclamation of national independence. [passage omitted]

Today, 13 years after achieving independence, it is with pain and revulsion to see what we built over such a short time destroyed by the armed bandits' terrorism. But we are not demoralized.

Apartheid-led aggression against Mozambique has resulted in a situation which today tragically affects millions of men, women, and children. This situation will also dramatically affect the development of our country and our society.

We are living in an emergency situation caused by the war of aggression. The armed bandits have killed, looted, and destroyed in many parts of the country, whose economic life was paralyzed. Hundreds of thousands of families were forced to abandon their hamlets, homes, and lands and were deprived of everything, even of the possibility of ensuring their own survival.

The national economy was profoundly affected. We went from process of rapid and sure development which provided for the production of basic goods to a situation where productivity by and large was diminished or paralyzed.

Armed bandit terrorism kills men, women, and children. It destroys hamlets, plantations and infrastructures. However, it cannot kill or destroy the unity and determination of the Mozambican people.

Due to this aggression, we have to fight on many fronts. Our people and state are engaged on all these fronts with firmness, courage, and a spirit of sacrifice. The FPLM forces ensure the defense of our independence and are fighting to eliminate armed banditry. Gains achieved through our soldiers' heroism, determination, and dedication to the fatherland are important. Efforts to reorganize the armed forces are continuing. They have had good results, which are already apparent, increasing their discipline, command, administration, logistical capability, and combat preparedness.

Foreign aggression against Mozambique is part and parcel of general aggression against independent southern African countries.

Because of that and because of the spirit of solidarity uniting our peoples in the struggle against armed banditry in Mozambique, there are military contingents from sister southern African countries taking part in this struggle. It is with emotion that we salute the Zimbabwean and Tanzanian soldiers, noncommissioned officers, and officers who fight foreign aggression against our country side-by-side with our forces and people.

It is with satisfaction that we note Malawi's adherence to this regional solidarity. We salute the solidarity of the peoples of all Frontline and SADCC member-states. They have given us support of various kinds, including material support.

Our people are also improving their organization and increasing the people's self-defense against armed bandit actions. This is a decisive factor in our struggle. We must be organized and prepared to defend our home, our hamlet, our cooperative, our plantation, our school, our health post, our shop, and our (?fatherland), so that we can protect our lives and the lives of our children. People are the direct targets of the bandits. [passage omitted]

We will stand firm in the face of armed banditry because we do not accept and cannot tolerate massacres, crime, barbarous destruction, and treason to the fatherland and the people. The clemency policy, under the terms of the amnesty law promulgated by the Mozambican Government at the beginning of this year, aims to reintegrate into our society those men who abandon criminality and treason and wish to take shelter once again under our national flag. Since the promulgation of the amnesty law, many hundreds of citizens who had been recruited into the bandit ranks—many of them forcibly—have surrendered under the terms of the state's clemency policy and rejoined our society. [passage omitted]

The People's Republic of Mozambique supports and actively searches for peace, justice harmonious relations, cooperation, and friendship among nations. We are in a region in which the search for peace is especially difficult. Apartheid opposes the common desire of all peoples in southern Africa to live in peace and dedicate all their

energy and capacity to the struggle against underdevelopment and for the establishment of well-being. Apartheid negates mankind's most cherished values. This is a regime in which militarism and internal and external violence grow continuously. The escalation of repression inside South Africa, the continued illegal occupation of Namibia, and the invasion, aggression, and destabilization against southern African countries are conclusive evidence of this, and the international community at large is becoming increasingly aware of it.

The international community is also increasingly aware that it has a duty to work toward equality and democracy in South Africa and to support the countries that are the targets of South African aggression and destabilization. For as long as apartheid survives, it will be a source of violence and a menace to peace.

Our state has continued untiring work for the reestablishment of peace in southern Africa. We have also tried to let the international community know and understand the nature of war waged against our country and its tragic consequences. Our efforts have met with extremely positive responses.

The emergency program shows that there has been ample international solidarity with our people. The emergency program has saved lives and supports the economic and social reintegration of hundreds of thousands of Mozambicans affected by the war.

This solidarity reaches us from governments, international organizations, and nongovernmental organizations everywhere in the world. This was evident in the second conference on emergency aid to Mozambique held in Maputo this year.

Support and cooperation within the context of the Economic Rehabilitation program have identical significance and importance. The recent Garsony report brought before the U.S. Senate is yet another important example of this greater understanding of our people's plight. Thus, it is with appreciation that we salute this support from the international community within the framework of the Economic Rehabilitation and emergency programs.

On this day, our national day, we renew our warm greetings— which I took the opportunity to express at the United Nations on behalf of the Mozambican people and state— to the international community as a whole.

Dear friends, on this anniversary, I salute all Mozambican people from Rovuma River to Maputo River. I salute those men, women, youths and children of our independent and sovereign fatherland. I salute the workers, peasants, intellectuals, technicians, artists, office workers, and employees who are determinedly engaged in our country's development on all work and production fronts. I salute the internationalist workers and the

guest workers who unit their efforts with the Mozambican people's work. It is with great emotion that I salute the soldiers, noncommissioned officers, and officers of the FPLM forces for their heroic defense of our country, our people and our independence. I salute them on their victories in the struggle for the elimination of armed banditry. I also want to salute the members of the Popular Security of Mozambique, the People's Police of Mozambique, the people's militia, and the people's vigilance groups for their commitment to the defense of the fatherland, order and tranquility.

It is with special tenderness that I salute our children. Our best efforts and sacrifices are for them. We want their happy smiles, their happy faces, and we want joy to live in their hearts.

I would like to ask all those present here to join me in a toast. For our health. For the happiness of the peoples. For the happiness of your homes. For friendship and solidarity among the peoples. For 25 June 1988. For Frelimo's 26 years and for the 13 years of the People's Republic of Mozambique. For peace and progress.

The struggle continues. [applause]