

**MOZAMBIQUE: CHISSANO ADDRESSES
INDEPENDENCE RECEPTION**

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Maputo home service in Portuguese 1830 gmt 25 Jun 88

Excerpts from speech by President Chissano at a reception in Maputo on 25th June - recorded.

28/6/88

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. . .

The gains achieved through our soldiers' heroism, determination and dedication to the homeland are important. Efforts to reorganise the armed forces are continuing. They have had good results, which are already apparent, improving 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, NCOs 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 organisation and increasing the people's self-defence against armed bandit actions. This is a decisive factor in our struggle. We must be organised and prepared to defend our home, our hamlet, our co-operative, our plantation, our school, our health post, our shop, and our (?homeland), so that we can protect our lives and the lives of our children. People are the direct targets of the bandits. . .

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 homeland 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. . .

The international community is also increasingly aware that it has a duty to work towards equality and democracy in South Africa and to support the countries that are the targets of South African aggression and destabilisation. 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 re-establishment 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 programme shows that there has been ample international solidarity with our people. The emergency programme 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 organisations, and nongovernmental organisations everywhere in the world. This was evident in the second conference on emergency aid to Mozambique held in Maputo this year. . .

On this day, our national day, we renew our warm greetings - which I took the opportunity to express at the UN 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 the Rovuma river to the Maputo river. I salute those men, women, youths and children of our independent and sovereign homeland. . .