

## MOZAMBICAN PRESIDENT ADDRESSES LUSOPHONE SUMMIT

*Maputo home service in Portuguese 1100 gmt 28 Jun 88*

*Text of speech by Joaquim Chissano at the opening session of the eighth summit of the five Lusophone countries in Bissau on 27th June - recorded (ME/0190 ii)*

Comrade Presidents, excellencies, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, comrades: we are here in Bissau once again for the summit meeting of our five countries. Once again, we have been accorded a warm welcome and fraternal hospitality. We have assumed the honourable responsibility of doing our best to ensure the success of this summit and the achievement of peace, development and social progress for our peoples. Accordingly, Comrade President Joao Bernardo Vieira, we express our gratitude for this traditional atmosphere of

comradeship. We carry a message of solidarity and deep friendship for the PAIGC militants, people and government of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau. We also convey the Mozambican people's conviction that, by developing the traditions of the five Lusophone countries, adapted to the new phase of our struggle and inspired by the principles of co-existence and resistance which characterised our heroes and martyrs, we will hold high the banner of independence in the defence of our countries' sovereignty and our unity, which is the aspiration and objective of our common struggle.

Comrade Presidents, excellencies, comrades: during our eighth summit, we will review the implementation of actions which were laid down at the Maputo summit and, as usual, we shall exchange experiences on the direction of our peoples' destinies. Once again, we will examine the causes of our successes and failures in order to enhance our capacity to realise future programmes of economic, social and cultural co-operation, as well as to co-ordinate our political and diplomatic actions. Once again, we will review our solidarity and find ways of strengthening it. It is not enough merely to observe that there has been an improvement in the operation of the sub-commissions and working groups as reflected in the implementation of established programmes. We are encouraged by this progress and will move forward by making the best use of our resources and capabilities, and using the energy of our cadres.

Our summit conference is part of the broad movement of inter-African co-operation in the struggle for economic, social, and cultural emancipation. It is equally part of the broad South-South co-operation in confronting the prevailing inequalities in trade between Third World and industrialised countries. We are linked by a heroic struggle for independence, by a political will that encourages us to move forward and by common objectives. It is on the basis of this identity that we should undertake greater efforts to define our aims more clearly. This definition should lead to an improved international relationship. First of all, I think that it is vital to identify our common projects and carry them out in a manner that would serve our collective interests and merit the approval of international institutions. Historical, cultural and other factors have brought us together. It is precisely these factors which consolidate our links, enabling us to move forward as far as possible despite the difficulties resulting from the current international economic and financial crisis, as well as the problems resulting from the war of aggression against Angola and Mozambique. In every new summit conference that we hold, we are greatly concerned with improving our working methods. Positive results have been observed in the diversified co-operation among our five countries. However, there is still a need to improve the links between the member countries and the co-ordinating country, particularly with regard to the circulation of information, in view of its importance to co-ordination.

Comrade Presidents, excellencies, comrades: Our diplomatic co-operation is manifested in a series of actions that we have taken. This diplomatic co-operation has proven to be an efficient and important instrument in our common struggle to preserve and consolidate our independence, peace and liberty. In this context, our main concern has been the

serious and explosive situation in southern Africa, not only because of its disastrous and direct effects on the independent countries of the region, but also because of the danger it represents to peace and stability on our continent and in the world. The five Lusophone countries reiterate their principled stands on the problems of peace and disarmament, the need for a new international economic order and the foreign debt of the developing countries. On southern Africa, the five have joined the international community to demand the dismantling of apartheid and express their deep conviction that it is not possible to achieve a lasting and honourable peace in this region of Africa as long as racial discrimination and colonialism continue.

Comrade Presidents, we are aware that the war mounted by South Africa has brought to our countries one of the most dramatic situations ever experienced by Third World countries. Hundreds of thousands of people have died and continue to die as a result of acts of aggression and destabilisation. There are thousands of displaced people who face the danger of dying of starvation. There are countless children who have lost their parents and relatives. Our states are redoubling efforts to confront the serious problems they face. The struggle that we are waging is a continuing battle for the defence of our gains and principles, but above all of our independence.

Comrade Presidents, during our mandate there have been major achievements which, because of their importance, we would like to highlight. On the battlefield in southern Angola, FAPLA forces have inflicted serious military defeats on the South African invading forces, thus bringing about a substantial change in the balance of forces. This has facilitated the ongoing diplomatic efforts to find a negotiated solution to the Namibian problem. In Mozambique, we have experienced success in the fight against armed banditry, and our FPLM forces have been thwarting enemy designs. The Gersony report to the US Senate and the quadripartite talks involving Angola, Cuba, the USA and South Africa are diplomatic landmarks which constitute positive prospects for the resolution of the conflict in the region. The People's Republic of Mozambique undertook serious initiatives to speed up the search for peace in Mozambique and in the region without compromising the legitimate aspirations of our peoples to independence, liberty and equality. As a result of the process of destabilisation, the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome e Principe experienced an attempted mercenary invasion. However, under the leadership of the Movement for the Liberation of Sao Tome e Principe and of Comrade President Manuel Pinto da Costa, the valiant Sao Tomean people thwarted it. We reiterate our warm congratulations to the fraternal people of Sao Tome e Principe and their leadership. In East Timor, the Maubere people continue to feed the burning flame of liberty and independence. The five continue their political and diplomatic actions of solidarity with this just struggle. It is with pleasure that we observe the positive stand maintained by Portugal as administrative power in search of a solution to the East Timor problem.

At the international level, major importance is given to the atmosphere observed between the USSR and the USA following the recent Moscow summit. This atmosphere could contribute towards nuclear disarmament and release resources

for the development and welfare of mankind. It is also to be hoped that it will help to lessen the idea of a world divided into surrogates, in which the people's will or their separate existence is inconceivable unless they belong to the Soviet or US orbit. Accordingly, we hope that a more favourable climate will be created to eliminate hotbeds of tension, particularly in southern Africa and the Middle East. On our own continent, the restoration of diplomatic relations between the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria and the Kingdom of Morocco was of major historical significance. At the time, we took the opportunity to congratulate them, inasmuch as we considered the move a contribution to African unity, creating a climate of peace, stability and good-neighbourliness in the Maghrib, as well as positively resolving the Western Saharan problem.

Comrade Presidents, excellencies, comrade delegates, members of the diplomatic corps, ladies and gentlemen, comrades: the People's Republic of Mozambique has honoured its role as the co-ordinator of the five during the period which is now coming to an end. The war of destabilisation launched against us from abroad and the need to maintain extensive diplomatic activity have, without doubt, created difficulties in the exercise of that co-ordination. It is under these conditions that the achievements made in various fields of co-operation among the five assume a particular significance. We express our gratitude for the understanding and support that we have received from the comrade presidents in fulfilling our mission. We would also like to take the opportunity to wish Comrade President Joao Bernardo Vieira, who is taking over the chairmanship, the best of success. Firm in the cause of the five, the People's Republic of Mozambique will continue to render all its support and collaboration to the fraternal republic of Guinea-Bissau, particularly to Comrade President Joao Bernardo Vieira. We wish this eighth summit the best of success. The struggle continues! Victory is certain. Thank you very much. [applause]