

Chissano Dinner Speech

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[Speech by President Joaquim Chissano at a dinner in honor of Zimbabwe President Robert Mugabe in Maputo on 3 August—recorded]

[Text] It is always with joy and fraternity that the Mozambican people and the Frelimo Party militants (?receive) you in this, your second fatherland, Comrade President Robert Mugabe. [applause]

Thus, our brother comes home after a long absence. However, we have maintained permanent contacts with this brother, who has shared in our times of victory and joy as well as our times of sadness and struggle. Together, we (?suffered) in the struggle for liberation, peace and progress in Mozambique and Zimbabwe. Together, we celebrated our past successes and the successes we are achieving in our two countries. Be welcome, Comrade Robert Mugabe, honorary citizen of Eduardo Mondlane and Samora Machel's fatherland. [applause]

This is your first official visit to the People's Republic of Mozambique in your capacity as the Republic of Zimbabwe's executive president. Your ascension to that position holds great significance for us. It was one of the highest points in the process of consolidating independence for the Zimbabwean people, who now enjoy increasing freedom, thereby determining their own mode of government and the path of their economic and social development. Your presence among us gives us yet another opportunity to tell you that we are happy to say that, through your election, the Zimbabwean people have supported your leadership with the type of militancy that has made you the symbol of Zimbabwe's independence. We recognize the clear-sighted manner in which you conducted the struggle against colonialism and racism until the final victory. We also recognize everything that you, Comrade Mugabe, have done for the Zimbabwean people's unity, which has been consolidated by the conclusion and [word indistinct] of the national reconciliation process you brilliantly led. You rehabilitated your country's social fiber, which colonialism, racism, war and tribalism had torn to pieces.

Be welcome, the uncontested leader of the Zimbabwean people! We also welcome you as a great statesman of African and international renown, as a prominent militant of the frontline, SADCC, and as the devoted acting chairman of the Nonaligned Movement. The distinguished members of the Zimbabwean presidential delegation need not be reminded that they are at home here.

Comrade President, the people and government of Mozambique see your visit as a unique occasion in which to strengthen our friendship, militant solidarity and multifaceted cooperation. The exchanges of party and state delegations as well as the reciprocal flow of people are unequivocal proof of the special relationship

between our countries. Thus, it is indispensable that we meet frequently at the highest level, so that we can plan and implement an increasingly dynamic and solid relationship between Mozambique and Zimbabwe. There are no sectors in the Mozambican and Zimbabwean societies that are not interconnected. There are no sectors in our countries that are not cooperating.

In an interparty accord, the Frelimo Party and the ZANU-PF Party formalized our relations, which date back to the days of the armed struggle for the national liberation of Mozambique and Zimbabwe. Women, young people, artists, solidarity and humanitarian organizations are joining their efforts to consolidate our unity, progress and social well-being. In the economic, technical, scientific and cultural fields, our countries complement each other, thus filling the gaps created and left by colonialism in our fatherlands.

With regard to economy, Comrade President Robert Mugabe granted us the privilege of officially opening the 1988 Bulawayo Trade Fair. This allowed us to assess Zimbabwe's development and to see the importance of our cooperation in the following ways: Zimbabwe is becoming an increasingly important economic partner in southern Africa. We are all aware of Zimbabwe's major past and present strides in the areas of agriculture and industry.

We all know that, thanks to its developed irrigation system and the quality of its seed development methods, Zimbabwe obtained the best agricultural yield in the region. However, we all know that, in addition to all that, Zimbabwe was the sole ACP [African, Caribbean and Pacific Countries] country that controlled the supply of its meat export quota to EEC countries. [applause] In saying this, I believe that the Zimbabwean people's greatest achievements, notably in the field of agriculture—which is fundamental in eliminating hunger—were the fruits of Comrade Robert Mugabe's correct leadership.

We would like to congratulate you, Comrade President Mugabe, for your valuable contribution to mankind. The international community has expressed this recognition by awarding you the Africa prize for leading the struggle against famine. [applause] That was an honor for Zimbabwe. It is an honor for Mozambique. It is an honor for the SADCC countries. Your successes are further proof of the need for developing bilateral cooperation. We must be aware that we still have a lot to learn from each other, and that we have the ability to overcome our handicaps. We wish that, in the future, your successes—which are also our successes—be even greater. However, it is with the blood that has been and is being shed today for the defense of our fatherlands and their territorial integrity that the Mozambican and Zimbabwean peoples build indestructible foundations for unity, peace, and progress. The valorous Mozambican and Zimbabwean soldiers who fight side-by-side against terrorism, fight to protect economic and social infrastructures—which are so necessary for a balanced regional development—and who fight to guarantee our

countries' political and economic independence, are the makers of our unity. We will always remember their dignified sacrifices. We hereby express our deepest recognition to them. [applause]

Comrade President Robert Mugabe, Comrade Sally Mugabe, comrades, ladies and gentlemen: Southern Africa is one of the richest regions in Africa, and even in the world. The countries in this region share enormous water, mineral and agricultural resources. The Indian and Atlantic Oceans, the rivers, the hinterland lakes, and the railroad and harbor systems are natural routes for increased regional and international trade. The Front-line States' political unity and SADCC's general development strategy are foundations and guarantees of the political will to fight for peace, independence, development and social justice. In southern Africa, SADCC will be even stronger when it includes the peoples of South Africa—without its apartheid system—and Namibia, freed from colonialism.

This firm political desire of ours is countered by war-mongering and aggressive forces. These forces want misery, famine, destruction and death. In this scenario of anxiety—because the tension and violence that characterize apartheid and colonialism continue to occur—a tenuous hope for peace appears to be arising from the current peace talks on southwestern Africa. The People's Republic of Mozambique has recognized the just merit of the Angolan Government's efforts, courage and determination in the ongoing quadripartite talks. This is an opportunity for all peoples of southern Africa—of all races and religious beliefs—to create the necessary conditions for them to concentrate on the exploration and development of their rich economic potential in the spirit of cooperation, interdependence and complementarity and in a climate of peace and social equality.

We hereby call on the sides at the talks to take full advantage of this excellent opportunity to help materialize the hopes of the whole world. Courage and determination are needed at this time. The South African Government must look inward and find ways and means of eradicating the apartheid system with the help of the South African people's legitimate representatives. We believe that, in creating peace, there are neither vanquished nor victors.

Comrade President Mugabe, during your mandate as chairman of the Nonaligned Movement, the international community witnessed positive developments in the African and international scenes. The easing of tension and dialogue between the United States and the USSR contributed decisively to the signing of the accord on the elimination of intermediate- and short-range nuclear weapons.

It is a step toward disarmament, which is a vital condition for a better world. In Africa, thanks to the joint efforts by the OAU, Chad and Libya, there are already real hopes for peace and development in that region. There is the hope for

justice and peace in the Horn of Africa. We hereby call on the interested sides to continue their efforts, because they benefit their own peoples and Africa at large. We have already had the opportunity to welcome Algeria and Morocco's return to good relations. We hereby salute the efforts being made by the United Nations and the OAU to resolve the Western Saharan issue.

The Middle East has been torn by 8 years of destructive and fratricidal war. For the first time, it seems that Iran and Iraq have responded favorably to constant calls by the international community in general and the Nonaligned Movement and the United Nations in particular. We would like to encourage them to continue striving for peace.

We are concerned about the prevailing situation in Central America. Nicaragua has shown firm political will in the search for a resolution to the aggression it suffers. We hereby call on the interested parties to work toward peace in that region. We salute the dialogue initiatives in southwestern Asia.

Comrade President, we are happy about all these positive events which have taken place at a time when Zimbabwe, a frontline state, presides over the Nonaligned Movement. Our congratulations. We wish you the greatest success. [applause]