

15

**MOZAMBICAN FOREIGN MINISTER ON
RELATIONS WITH PORTUGAL FOLLOWING
EXPULSION OF DIPLOMATS**

Maputo home service in Portuguese 1030 gmt 21 Mar 89

Text of report (ME/0414 B/3) ME/0416/B/3 23/3/89

Great coverage is being given to the current relations between Mozambique and Portugal following the expulsion of diplomats by both countries. In an interview with correspondent Edmundo Galiza Matos yesterday, Foreign Minister Pascoal Mocumbi, who was included in the presidential delegation and returned to Maputo yesterday, spoke about this issue:

[Mocumbi - recording] Little by little Mozambique and Portugal have built an increasingly fruitful political relationship. We now intend to see the same kind of relationship develop with co-operation. We are awaiting the Portuguese Prime Minister's visit to Mozambique with the same expectancy we did when he was expected to visit our country last year. The visit had to be postponed for very good and well known reasons that had nothing to do with politics. There are circles in Portugal interested in damaging the friendly and co-operative relations between Portugal and Mozambique. I think that this should not be used by the two governments to change the level of our relationship.

[Matos] There are reports of agitation in Portugal and even hysteria, if you would allow me to say so, concerning this issue. There are also reports that the Portuguese police have withdrawn the security garrison at the Mozambican embassy. Do you have any knowledge of this? What is your view?

[Mocumbi] The Portuguese police should be more active and efficient in neutralising terrorist agents that move about with impunity inside Portugal. The Portuguese media should at least expose their barbaric acts, which have caused the death of people, including mainly children, numbering 100,000. I am only citing the number currently known, the number cited by national and international media. This should have been the Portuguese media's concern, to try to know who is behind the death of so many people and why do they act this way. This is how I view the death of Mr Evo Fernandes, the late Evo Fernandes who was the secretary-general of a terrorist organisation that carries out acts against my country. This should have been the fundamental concern of the Portuguese media and not an incident that is now closed, as far as I and the Mozambican government are concerned.
