

ANC Reaction to South Africa's "Deadly Threats" Against Mozambique

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Excerpts from commentary entitled "Hands off the People's Republic of Mozambique":

Compatriots, as expected, the apartheid regime has once again issued deadly threats of reprisal against one of the frontline states. This time the victim is the PRM [People's Republic of Mozambique]. The racist Defence Minister, Magnus Malan, yesterday accused Mozambique of what he termed harbouring ANC [words indistinct] the landmine incident on the [words indistinct]. Six fascist troops were seriously injured when their military vehicle detonated a landmine. . . Malan said his regime was certain that ANC freedom fighters had planted the mine and added this worn-out lie that their fighters had entered the country from Mozambique. We know that this is a lie. Even Malan and his seniors know that it is a blatant lie. They insist on it, because, having portrayed themselves to their supporters as invincible and [words indistinct], they have no other [words indistinct].

However, the fact of the matter is that our country is at war. There is nothing unusual when the very same (?troops) who are killing our people in the townships are being made to taste their own medicine. The ANC declared long ago that since the areas along the country's northern borders are used for military purposes, the movement has no choice but to treat them as such. . . The fact that the incident took place not far away from our northern borders does not change anything. In fact that the Botha-Malan regime has in the past blamed neighbouring states for incidents which took place deep inside our country. . .

What else does Malan expect those combatants to do if they don't attack the enemy? In issuing his deadly threats, Malan also reminded the Maputo government about the Incomati Accord. He said this was a violation of the accord, but the fact of the matter is that it is his regime that daily violates the accord. Mozambique even has documentary evidence to that effect. Even Roelof Botha, who was at one stage forced to admit that there were what he called technical violations of the Incomati Accord. It is therefore clear that the enemy is already preparing ground for aggression against Mozambique.

The enemy [words indistinct] attacks, despite the accord it signed because what it hoped to gain from the accord is not forthcoming. The enemy hoped that the Incomati Accord was going to cripple the ANC, but the ANC has become stronger. Now that what the regime hoped to gain has failed, it has resorted back to its old tactics of attacking its neighbours. This also reaffirms the words of the ANC when we declared: We are convinced that this regime, which is dripping from head to foot with the blood of thousands of people it has murdered throughout southern Africa, cannot be an architect of justice and peace in our region.

The ANC further declared such accords - concluded as they are with a regime that has no moral or legal right to govern our country - cannot but help to perpetuate the illegitimate rule of the South African white settler minority. The liberation movements stress that a just and lasting peace in our region is not possible while the fountain-head of war and instability in this area - the apartheid regime and the oppressive system it maintains - continues to exist.

Therefore, we, the struggling people of South Africa, have to intensify our struggle right inside the country and to continue eliminating more and more armed personnel of the enemy. Let more landmines hit apartheid troops. Let our gunfire continue eliminating terrorist (?policemen). If we intensify the war here inside our country, the enemy will not have enough time to be planning aggressive acts against our neighbours. Let us cripple this economy which emboldens the enemy to carry out such acts. Our central task, therefore, is the overthrow of this white minority aggressive regime, the seizure of power by the people and the uprooting by these victorious masses of the entire apartheid system.

We are still convinced that this question will be and is being settled in struggle within the borders of our country and nowhere else. Hands off the PRM. Hands off the frontline states.