

Mozambican Comment on Reasons for S African Destabilisation

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The South African intelligence service (NIS) has joined the escalating wave of threats against Mozambique with a statement yesterday that the African National Congress [ANC] of South Africa had rebuilt its military structure in Mozambique. A NIS spokesman quoted yesterday by the South African government radio (SABC) said that one proof of this was the fact that Joe Slovo, described as a leader of the ANC's armed wing, had been seen in Maputo.

It is public knowledge that Joe Slovo was in Maputo in March to attend the funeral of the South African communist leader Moses Mabhida. Pictures of the mourners at the funeral, who included ANC leader Oliver Tambo as well as Joe Slovo, were published in the newspapers and shown on television.

If the presence of Joe Slovo in Maputo and his contact with Mozambicans are to be regarded as military acts, then the same should be the case with the recent meeting between Oliver Tambo and British Foreign Secretary Geoffrey Howe. To be coherent, South Africa should also threaten to attack parts of the British Isles. In fact what we are seeing has nothing to do with the presence of Joe Slovo in Mozambique or the growing international recognition of the ANC.

Pretoria is once again attempting to present the ANC and the struggle against apartheid as coming from outside South Africa. But no matter how much Pretoria shouts that the problems come from outside, no matter what disinformation campaigns are spread to show involvement by the countries of the region in military support for the ANC, the stark reality remains that the struggle against apartheid is an internal phenomenon in South Africa. The international community has a role to play, but the main actors are the South African people themselves. If the South African government wants to eliminate the real bases of the ANC, then it will have to murder millions upon millions of South Africans. They are the real ANC bases.

But there is a second objective behind the ferocious campaign that Pretoria has launched against Mozambique this week. Pretoria is looking for further pretexts to step up its attacks on Mozambique. It was not enough that it failed to implement the Incomati accord. Sending bandits and weapons to continue the destabilisation process was not enough. The massive infiltration by South Africa of bandits through Malawi was not enough. In the midst of all this, Mozambique has succeeded in completing a good part of the elections, despite South African propaganda to the effect that it would be impossible for Mozambique to hold elections. In the midst of all this, Mozambique and the other frontline states have succeeded in winning important support to strengthen the capacity of its ports and railways. In the midst of all this, the difficulties for Mozambique have increased, but they have not succumbed. Pretoria wants to go further in its efforts to dominate Mozambique.

But why? Why is Pretoria trying to dominate Mozambique? Apartheid's days are numbered and Pretoria knows this. The West knows it. The whole world knows it. Only an ideology approaching madness could have given those in charge of the apartheid machine the macabre idea that, with the end of their privilege in sight, it would be best to destroy Mozambique. There is no other explanation. Pretoria does not even seem to have any strategy. All that remains for them is to bring down the barbarity of apartheid in an orgy of destruction. In this difficult time for the peoples of southern Africa, the West has the chance to choose between apartheid and the people, between the past and the future.