

B. A F R I C A**Press Conference after Maputo Summit: Kaunda on Malawi's "Invasion" of Mozambique**

AIM/PANA in English 0959 gmt 13 Oct 86

Text of dispatch datelined Maputo, 13th October (ME/8389/ii):

President Kenneth Kaunda of Zambia accused Malawi of having launched an invasion against Mozambique. He was speaking yesterday after a long summit meeting of the leaders of southern Africa's six frontline states.

Asked by the Mozambique news agency (AIM) whether Zambia would stand by Mozambique's warning that it could close its border with Malawi, Kaunda said: "Mozambique has to be thanked for having been so patient with its neighbour Malawi. Mozambique has been extremely patient, so patient that it came to ask us, its colleagues in the frontline states, to lead a delegation to go to see President Banda. This was only a few weeks ago when we thought we could explain what was involved to President Banda."

On 11th September, a meeting took place in Blantyre between Presidents Samora Machel of Mozambique, Kenneth Kaunda of Zambia and Prime Minister Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe with Malawi's Life President Kamuzu Banda. Kaunda said the three frontline leaders had talked to President Banda "very faithfully" and recalled that there followed the decision to establish a high-powered joint security and defence commission between Mozambique and Malawi.

"What has surprised all of us is that after a high powered (Malawian) delegation came to see President Samora Machel, an attack should have been launched by Malawi from its own territory supported by bandits and supported by South Africa", he said. "We couldn't understand this at all. So we have left everything in the hands of our host (Mozambique). We have tried the language of peace. It has led us nowhere. We regret this", he added.

Mozambican officials said recently that South Africa had unleashed a major attack from Malawian territory involving MNR bandits and affecting mainly the northern provinces of Zambezia and Tete. A final communique of yesterday's summit launched a bitter attack on Malawi.

On the same question, Machel said Mozambique separates the people of Malawi from their government. "We don't confuse the two. The people of Malawi want peace and the people of Mozambique also want peace", he said. On his return from the Blantyre meeting in September he threatened also to place missiles along the border with Malawi. "The missiles have been placed", he said yesterday. But, he added, "we haven't put them in firing position yet".

He recalled Malawi's decision to abandon the OAU meeting in Ghana in October 1965 after the OAU had criticised Malawi for its collaboration with the Portuguese colonial authorities in Mozambique, notably by continued Malawian use of Mozambique's ports. Malawi, said the President, declared at the time that it could not live without Mozambique ports.

After Mozambique's independence in 1975 the Malawian government began a slow drift towards more dependence on South Africa's ports and railways because of its increasing participation in the South African sponsored destabilisation war against Mozambique which isolated Malawi from Mozambique's northern port of Nacala, the cheapest and closest outlet for Malawian exports.

There was a moment of laughter at yesterday's press conference when a Soviet reporter asked Machel what he would do in case South Africa attacked Maputo directly with its armed forces. "Well, we will ask the Soviet Union for weapons", he answered.