

ANGOLA/MOZAMBIQUE: Declaration of the five

Five Presidents meeting in Sao Tomé censured South Africa for violating the Nkomati Accord

The Presidents of Angola, Guinea Bissau, São Tomé and Príncipe, Mozambique and Cape Verde recently became signatories to the São Tomé Declaration which attacked South Africa for its failure to respect agreements reached with Angola and Mozambique.

The Declaration points to the continued presence of South African troops in Angola, long after the Lusaka Understanding stipulated that their withdrawal would be complete by March 31 1984. It also states that despite the Nkomati Accord, "acts of terrorism and violence" are still being launched by South Africa against Mozambique.

Doubts were cast on the continuation of good relations between the five countries and Portugal because of the "complicity of certain Portuguese political, financial and military circles in aggression against Mozambique and Angola."

On the eve of the São Tomé summit of the five, Portuguese Prime Minister Mário Soares gave a dinner in Lisbon for the ambassadors of the Portuguese-speaking African countries. He stated there that his government had "the firm intention not to allow Portuguese territory to be used as a base for operations against the legitimate governments of Angola, Mozambique and other countries."

Speaking on behalf of the other ambassadors, Leonel Vieira, ambassador of Guinea Bissau, said that the five countries took note "of the statements of intent of Portuguese leaders," but would wait "for those intentions to be transformed into tangible action."

Only a few hours later, when the São Tomé summit had already started, it was publicly reported that the new official representative of UNITA had arrived in Lisbon and fully assumed his functions. This was Alcides Simões, who replaced

former representative Wilson dos Santos and immediately embarked on a flurry of meetings with officials in Lisbon.

News of this caused the greatest perplexity at the São Tomé summit meeting. The official Angolan news agency, ANGOP, issued a comment stating that the fact that the Portuguese Government had allowed a representative of UNITA to establish residence in Lisbon in order to "organise subversive activities" against that country was "an act of dishonesty towards Angola."

There is also perplexity in Mozambique: Foreign Minister, Joaquim Chissano, had meetings recently in Portugal with Mário Soares and Portuguese Foreign Minister Jaime Gama. Soares told him about the practical steps his government intended to take. Chissano stated publicly that he was "satisfied with the measures that the Portuguese government has decided to take," adding: "We want an effective end to interference by some people based in Portugal."

A few days later, the MNR office in Lisbon distributed a new issue of its propaganda bulletin. Named *A Luta Continua*, the glossy bulletin printed in Portugal has as its editor Paulo Oliveira, who works on the extreme right-wing paper *O Dia*. The bulletin is personally delivered to many of the media and it is against the Mozambican Government.

In this recent issue, the MNR stated that a Portuguese citizen, Artur Janeiro da Fonseca, had been appointed "head of the foreign affairs department" of the organisation.

In addition, an organisation which advocated neo-colonial solutions at the time of Mozambique's independence was recently resurrected in Lisbon. This is FUMO—the United Democratic Front of Mozambique □

Nkomati 'a failure'

The Nkomati Pact has been a failure, President Machel is claimed to have told African leaders at a one-day summit meeting in Lusaka last month.

Zambia's President Kenneth Kaunda said that both Nkomati and the Lusaka understanding with Angola have been abrogated and Tanzania's President Julius Nyerere laid the blame squarely on South Africa.

Late last month, South African Foreign Minister Pik Botha hurried to Maputo to try

to rescue the pact, which has been the pride of Pretoria's regional policy.

Its collapse might signal the end of what the West sees as its possibilities for wooing Mozambique to its side.

He later said the MNR was partly financed by "an international web of bankers, financiers and businessmen," and announced that pro-MNR military men had been sacked or transferred.

The Nkomati pact was reaffirmed by both sides □

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