

LUSOPHONE COUNTRIES

Extraordinary Summit (Luanda)

ARBP
15/11/89

The second special conference of the heads of state of **Angola, Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique and Sao Tome and Principe** was held in Luanda on October 4th 1989 under the chairmanship of Gen. Joao Bernardo Vieira, President of the Council of State of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau.

At the opening session, Presidents Jose Eduardo dos Santos of Angola and Joao Bernardo Vieira, made important speeches in which they stressed the importance of the summit meeting which was being held during a time of rapid and positive evolution of southern Africa's political situation, an evolution which suggested encouraging prospects for a peaceful solution to the problems prevailing in the region.

In this context, the five heads of state underlined the need for their group to play a more active role in the ongoing peace efforts, as a contribution to the urgent search for solutions, leading to peace and stability in this troubled region of Africa, particularly in Angola and Mozambique.

The leaders noted the positive influence that the international political situation, characterised by a relaxed atmosphere, had been playing in the peaceful solution of regional conflicts in general, and southern Africa in particular, whereby confrontation had gradually given way to constructive dialogue.

The heads of state were pleased with the courage and spirit of openness and clear-sightedness demonstrated by Angola, which had greatly contributed to the success of the south-western African negotiation process and culminated in Angola, Cuba and South Africa signing the New York accords on December 22nd 1988 (p. 9102). The heads of state urged the signatories to adhere strictly to the accords, which is an indispensable condition for establishing peace and security in southern Africa and for strengthening trust among the countries in the region.

The five heads of state reiterated their total adherence to the decisions made at the historic Gbadolite summit, which amounted to a show of African wisdom in solving disputes and conflicts in Africa (p. 9317).

They appealed to the United States and South Africa to stop their support for Unita in order to permit the full implementation of the New York accords and the creation of conditions favourable to an uninterrupted advance of the peace process in Angola, under the mediation of Marshal Mobutu Sese Seko, President of Zaire.

Peace Progress Assessed

President Joaquim Alberto Chissano of Mozambique then informed his counterparts about the efforts that the Mozambican government had been making to end violence, establish peace and stabilise the lives of all citizens in Mozambique. In this context, he gave an account of the activities carried out by Presidents Daniel arap Moi of Kenya and Robert Gabriel Mugabe of Zimbabwe in their capacity as mediators as laid down by the government of Mozambique. The five heads of state encouraged the president to continue with efforts to end the war in Mozambique and establish peace and national reconciliation.

The heads of state assessed the process of implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 435 78, calling for the full implementation of the UN plan on Namibia's independence, and the right of the Namibian people to self-determination and independence. In this context, they urged the UN Secretary-General to continue with efforts, through his representative in Namibia, to create conditions permitting free and fair elections.

The heads of state assessed the prevailing situation in the Republic of South Africa reporting on the recent racist elections held in that country and calling on the government to introduce without further delay measures to dismantle the apartheid system, and the establishment of a democratic society based on equality and freedom for all South Africans.

They condemned apartheid which remains the main cause of tension and instability in southern Africa, and urged the South African government to begin dialogue and negotiations with the legitimate representatives of the South

African people and democratic forces, particularly the ANC, with a view to eliminating apartheid. They called for the release of political prisoners, particularly Nelson Mandela, the lifting of the state of emergency, and the banning of political parties which would amount to an unequivocal sign of the South African government's will to change.

The heads of state finally expressed their pleasure at the growing importance of political and diplomatic co-operation among the five countries and the adoption of the official Portuguese language, which will permit greater participation. In assessing the progress of multilateral co-operation between the five countries and Portugal with a view to promoting the development of their respective economies, the heads of state of the five countries agreed to hold regular consultative meetings between the ministers of foreign affairs of the five and Portugal.

(R. Luanda 4/10—BBC Mon.)