

B. AFRICA

MOZAMBICAN PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS TO LUSOPHONE SUMMIT; COMMENTS ON PEACE TALKS, ELECTIONS

Radio Mozambique, Maputo, in Portuguese 1800 gmt 19 Dec 89

Excerpts from recording of speech by President Joaquim Chissano to Lusophone summit meeting in Cape Verde on 18th December

Comrade Aristides Maria Pereira, President of the Republic of Cape Verde; Comrade Joao Bernardo Vieira, President of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau; Comrade Jose Eduardo dos Santos, President of the People's Republic of Angola; Comrade Manuel Pinto da Costa, President of the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe; comrade delegates, ladies and gentlemen:

On behalf of the heads of state of the five African Lusophone countries, I would like to thank Comrade Aristides Pereira, President of the Republic of Cape Verde, for his speech and to convey a message of friendship and solidarity that we carry from our peoples and governments to the people and government of the Republic of Cape Verde. We express our deep gratitude for the attention and warm, fraternal, and militant welcome we have received from the fraternal people of Cape Verde since we arrived in this hospitable and beautiful city of Praia. The warmth and enthusiasm with which we were received is testimony of the ties of brotherhood and fraternal friendship that bind our people based on the history of suffering we share, and our hand-in-hand struggle to achieve our self-determination and independence. . .

With admiration and affection, we warmly salute Comrade Joao Bernardo Vieira, the outgoing co-ordinating chairman and President of the Republic of Guinea Bissau, for the brilliance and wisdom with which he led our sessions throughout his mandate, always instilling appropriate energy, defending our interests and consolidating our unity. As we now transfer the chairmanship to Comrade Aristides Pereira to preside over our sessions for next year . . . we are certain that the unity we have achieved in previous years will be wisely consolidated and defended, and that our co-operation will be intensified. . .

Comrade President, we are all aware of the important role played by the Republic of Cape Verde, particularly by Comrade President Aristides Pereira, in the search for peace for southern Africa. . . We could not fail to take this opportunity to express the gratitude of our peoples and states and strongly to encourage you to continue along this path which has already begun to bear fruit in the southern region of our martyred continent. . .

Comrade President, in Mozambique, despite the war of aggression facing our country, we observe with satisfaction an increasing development in our economy within the framework of the economic rehabilitation programme initiated three years ago. By combining economic recovery efforts and the need to

defend the homeland, the Mozambique armed forces have inflicted heavy defeats on the enemy, freeing the land and people from the yoke of the criminals of the so-called MNR.

Nevertheless, as a peace-loving people, our principal attention is directed towards finding peaceful solutions to the conflict that opposes the so-called MNR to the Mozambican people. By so doing, we try to realise the principles defined by the Frelimo Party and the Mozambican government.

With regard to the peace initiatives in Mozambique, we would like to inform the comrade presidents that we view with optimism the ongoing mediation process led by their excellencies President Daniel arap Moi of Kenya and Robert Gabriel Mugabe of Zimbabwe. We have already expressed our gratitude to them. Our government is ready to hold dialogue with the so-called MNR on the basis of principles that will respect the sovereignty of our people and of the People's Republic of Mozambique.

We are pleased to inform this summit that after the successful conclusion of the fifth Frelimo Party congress, which approved very important decisions to increase democracy in our country, we are now involved in the process of popular debate to revise Mozambique's constitution. This will strengthen the legal foundations for realising our people's aspirations by guaranteeing all the citizens' permanent participation in defining national policies on all aspects of our country's life. Every Mozambican citizen is called upon to participate in this process so that we may achieve a real national consensus.

On the basis of the results of this popular debate, we shall hold general and presidential elections in 1991. Every citizen will be able to run in these elections, in accordance with the electoral law that will also be drafted on the basis of national consensus.

Comrade President, peace is important not only for the Mozambican and Angolan peoples, but also for all the people of southern Africa. The latest events in this region make the respective people optimistic about the future. After the victory of SWAPO in Namibia, events in South Africa demonstrate how just is our march, since we proclaimed our independence, towards a southern Africa that is free from colonialism and apartheid, a southern Africa of sovereign countries developing healthy co-operation in an atmosphere of peace and tranquillity for the benefit of its people. The peoples of our region join all peace-loving countries in wanting to see the end of colonialism in Namibia and the end of apartheid in South Africa so that we may develop integrated co-operation within the framework of the SADCC, a regional organisation of which Mozambique and Angola are members.

Conscious that soon [words indistinct] within the framework of the SADCC, we would like to see a democratic South Africa as a full member of this organisation. A southern Africa with an independent Namibia and a democratic South Africa, where all its citizens feel that they are truly South Africans and participate on an equal footing in the leadership

and management of the political, economic, cultural, and social destinies of the country, offers an important economic potential and a broad market that is worth mentioning. It will enable us to design correct strategies for integrated co-operation for the development of the region and for Africa as a whole.

The current changes throughout the world must receive our attention. The East-West confrontation was previously used against the interests of the countries of the South region. We have to ensure that detente and the end of the cold war will also be favourable to the progress of the South region and to a more equitable co-operation between the North and South...

Faced with all these complex conditions, we must find our own solutions that will best respond to the problems we are currently facing. Other people's recipes are meant to resolve their own problems and to satisfy their own interests, not ours. Copying or imitating experiences that are inadequate to our historical, economic, and social conditions would be a serious mistake for which our people would pay a very dear price. However to turn our backs on the world, to close our eyes, not to learn from world changes and to lock ourselves up would be condemning our own people to darkness. It would deny them of progress and civilisation, and would create a worse situation than the one we are already experiencing...

An important question that is currently being asked throughout the world, including in Africa, is the choice between a one-party and a multi-party system. This issue has been raised frequently as a criterion for determining whether or not a society is democratic. Democracy can exist in a one-party system, just as it can exist in a multi-party system. It is not unusual to see democracy being sacrificed and reduced to a farce in one system or another. As a matter of fact, the choice between a one-party system and a multi-party system does not necessarily arise from the need to support democracy.

In the case of sub-Saharan Africa as a whole, the issue arises from the need and the historical task to build nations from newly-proclaimed states or from countries recently freed from colonialism. Thus, the experience of many countries favours establishing a one-party system as one that allows a better building of nations within the framework of the borders inherited from colonialism and in the specific conditions of Africa. There is a need, particularly for the newly-independent countries, to create and strengthen the mechanisms of a state apparatus, the [words indistinct] and modern legislation.

In addition, the level of illiteracy in our countries is not something that can be ignored. We want to avoid the manipulation of people against their own interests through mechanisms of a political struggle that they may not even understand. The issue of democracy, no matter what the system, always continues to be a major desire to which we must respond in a positive, creative, and militant way. In one system or another, what is important is finding solutions and mechanisms that will concretely guarantee true democracy that will realise the principle that the sovereignty is found in the people. This is how we view this problem...

Comrade President... Our summits have always been valuable meetings where very important problems are examined and decisions made for the social and cultural well-

being of our peoples. It is important that we strengthen the role and the prestige of the five by defining and carrying out concrete actions that will make our unity and co-operation increasingly cohesive... Long live the five Lusophone African countries! The struggle continues! [Applause]