

Conferences and Commissions

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LUSOPHONE COUNTRIES

Eighth Summit (Bissau) 15/7/84

The eighth summit of the heads of state of the five Lusophone countries ended in Bissau on June 28th. by reaffirming the "right of the Angolan people and government to defend and preserve their sovereignty and territorial integrity" and launching an appeal to parties involved in the recent quadripartite talks (p. 8900). "We reaffirm the right of the Angolan people and government to defend and preserve their sovereignty and territorial integrity, and we believe that all actions taken by the People's Republic of Angola to achieve this principle are within the framework of its sovereignty and should not be interpreted as a threat against any territory," the document read at the closing session by Guinea-Bissau Foreign Minister, Julio Semedo, points out.

At the summit, heads of state Nino Vieira of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau, Joaquim Chissano of the People's Republic of Mozambique, Aristides Pereira of the Republic of Cape Verde and Pinto da Costa of the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe encouraged the government of the People's Republic of Angola to con-

tinue on the path of negotiations and launched an appeal to the parties involved in the negotiations to "avoid any action that might jeopardise the ongoing negotiating process."

"Bissau Declaration"

According to the 'Bissau declaration on southern Africa,' the presidents expressed satisfaction with the "constructive spirit, courage, realism and flexibility demonstrated by the government of the People's Republic of Angola within the framework of its peace initiatives which led to the ongoing quadripartite talks" The declaration also points out that the heads of state have noted and appreciated the "efforts undertaken by Angola and Mozambique to preserve and develop relations of understanding, good-neighbourliness and co-operation with neighbouring countries."

The heads of state expressed satisfaction "with the positive development of the international community's awareness over the nature of armed banditry in Angola and Mozambique, which is demonstrated by the increasing denunciation of its terrorist and anti-nationalist nature."

The presidents called on the African countries to continue to express their solidarity with the southern African countries during this crucial phase of their struggle for the strict observance of the OAU Charter and its resolutions, and to mobilise their respective peoples towards this common struggle.

The document also expresses the appreciation of the heads of state of the 'five' for the new direction taken by the Portuguese government in its relations with the group, which correspond to the desires of the five to maintain and develop deep ties of friendship and co-operation with that country."

At the meeting, the heads of state also examined the report on the activities of the Ministerial Commission presented by Mr. Pascoal Mocumbi, the outgoing co-ordinating minister and Foreign Minister of Mozambique, and expressed satisfaction with the efforts towards co-operation. The five heads of state also expressed satisfaction with efforts to consolidate the special relations of co-operation and underlined the need for a critical review of the state of co-operation and a study of the mechanisms that would lead to its consolidation.

The conference approved the report of the Ministerial commission and the programme of action for the period 1988-89 and instructed the bodies charged with co-operation among the five on the need:

- (i) "To define and plan actions which will correspond to the needs and interests of our countries and to preserve and guarantee the required dynamism and effectiveness of relations among the five;
- (ii) To activate or reinforce the co-ordination bodies of each country with the aim of ensuring continued co-operation; and.
- (iii) To follow up carefully the work undertaken and actions in various sectors of activity, thus ensuring their full co-ordination, to guarantee their success and a full exercise of responsibilities by relevant organisations." (Angop 29/6)