

Communique of Lusophone Summit

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Excerpts from "final communique" of the sixth summit of the heads of Angola, Mozambique, Cape Verde, Guinean-Bissau and Sao Tome e Principe, issued in Luanda on 29th April (ME/8247/B/7):

. . . At the opening session, Comrade Jose Eduardo dos Santos, President of the People's Republic of Angola, and Manuel Pinto da Costa of the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome e Principe, made important speeches which inspired the conference and paid special homage to Eduardo Mondlane, Amilcar Cabral and Agostinho Neto, who are all heroes of the five fraternal peoples. They also paid homage to the combatants who have continued to spill their blood in the defence of national sovereignty and territorial integrity. The heads of state highlighted the various efforts and hardships endured by the five in the struggle against underdevelopment and for raising the standard of living of their peoples despite the serious economic crisis affecting the developing countries.

They condemned the global strategy of international imperialism aimed at asphyxiating the economies of the countries of the so-called third world through the manipulation of prices of the basic commodities. . .

The summit approved the report of the ministerial commission and the plan of action for 1986-87 and reaffirmed, among other things, the following guidelines:

To increase economic co-operation. The existing potential and capacities in each one of the countries must be fully utilised for their mutual benefit.

To give special attention to the increase of trade, the rational and joint use of transportation to strengthen other areas of co-operation, the continuation of studies aimed at establishing joint financial institutions and to strengthen co-operation in the field of information and health.

(c) Direct involvement of national organisations in enterprises and the economic entities in wide-ranging activities. An efficient (implementation) of this depends on the knowledge of all sides of the existing situation.

(d) Continuation of joint efforts in the training of cadres by using existing resources in the various fields most rationally and strengthening actions aimed at creating new joint training centres.

The heads of state stressed the growing importance of political and diplomatic co-operation and emphasised the need to adopt more systematic and strengthened consultations among the five at the international level. Accordingly, they reaffirmed the pressing need to fulfil the decision to introduce Portuguese as a working language of the OAU. They therefore instructed the co-ordinating minister to approach the Secretariat of the OAU with the view to rapidly achieving this. . .

The heads of state made a profound assessment of the burning issues of the international situation and paid special attention to the explosive situation prevailing in southern Africa. This issue was dealt with in a special document - the Luanda Declaration.

The five reiterated their historic support for the just struggles of the Namibian and South African peoples. They reaffirmed their solidarity with SWAPO and the ANC. The five demanded the unconditional release of Nelson Mandela and of the South African patriots detained by the South African regime.

The five reiterated their militant solidarity with the struggle of the Saharan people under the leadership of the Polisario Front, their sole and legitimate representative. They stressed that the solution of the problem depended on the application of OAU Resolution 104 and the relevant resolutions of the United Nations and the non-aligned movement. In this regard, the presidents were pleased with the efforts made by the OAU Chairman and the UN Secretary General to apply those resolutions, and called upon them to continue their efforts to find a just and final solution for the conflict in Western Sahara.

On the issue of Chad, the five hailed the actions of the OAU Chairman and the President of the People's Republic of the Congo in search of peace and national reconciliation in that fraternal country in accordance with Resolution 143 adopted at the 21st OAU summit. They deplored the failure to hold the meeting between the main warring factions, which was scheduled to be held in the People's Republic of the Congo, in March 1986.

On the East Timor issue, the five heads of state reiterated their unconditional support for the struggle of the Maubere people for self-determination and independence and for the peace initiative of the Revolutionary Front for East Timor independence [FRETILIN]. They condemned once again the annexation of that territory by Indonesia. The five urged Portugal fully to assume its historic, moral, and judicial responsibilities and to start negotiations with FRETILIN. They encouraged the UN Secretary General to continue efforts to find a just and final solution to the issue on the basis of the Resolution 5730 of the UN General Assembly, and reiterated the importance of holding an international conference of solidarity with the East Timor people.

The heads of state noted with grave concern the current situation in the Middle East, resulting from Israel's aggressive and expansionist policy. They reiterated their unwavering solidarity with the Palestinian people led by its sole and legitimate representative, the PLO, in the struggle for their inalienable national rights. They spoke once again in favour of an international conference on peace in the Middle East with the participation of all interested parties, including the PLO.

The five heads of state condemned the hideous practice of terrorism and they denounced particularly the irresponsibility of certain states which support and promote these actions and use them as an instrument of their policies.

The presidents expressed their deep concern on the increasing atmosphere of tension in Central America and the Caribbean caused by US intervention and interference in the internal affairs of the countries in the region, particularly Nicaragua. They hailed the Contadora Group's peace initiatives as an important step to establish peace and tranquillity in the region.

They analysed the situation in the Mediterranean area and vehemently condemned the threatening words and pressures against Libya which culminated in the aggression committed on 15th April 1986 by the US air force against Tripoli and Benghazi in flagrant violation of the UN Charter and the principles of modern international law, and they reiterated their unwavering solidarity with the Libyan people and government.

The heads of state underlined once again the causes of the international economic crisis and emphasised the need to establish a new economic international order which would be more just and equitable and to promote development and (?stable) co-operation among peoples. On the special session of the UN General Assembly on Africa's economic situation to be held in New York from 27th to 31st May, the heads of state expressed the wish to participate actively in its proceedings. They also launched an appeal to the international community to attend that special session at the highest level as a way of supporting Africa in the search for concrete solutions in view of the continent's deteriorating economic and social situation.

The presidents noted that the increase in the manufacture of weapons of massive destruction further aggravates the present world situation characterised by an unbridled arms race, from outer space to the sea-bed, thus increasing the danger of a nuclear war threatening the very existence of humanity. In this context, they expressed their conviction that universal peace and security must be secured through complete and general disarmament within the UN framework and they have launched an appeal to the nuclear powers to adopt concrete measures so that outer space and the sea-bed would be used only for peaceful means. In their concern to eliminate nuclear weapons and the systems of mass destruction, the five heads of state reiterated their firm support for the creation of a nuclear-free zone in the Indian Ocean and its continuation as a peace zone. They defended similar initiatives in other parts of the world in the belief that their fulfilment would contribute to the security of all peoples and nations. The heads of state reiterate once again their deep conviction that the vast human resources and material means used in the unbridled arms race could contribute to eliminating the underdevelopment that affects a large part of our planet. Accordingly the heads of state support the resumption of disarmament talks between the USSR and the USA and they appealed to both parties to continue the dialogue with a view to signing agreements to effectively reduce and progressively eliminate systems of mass destruction. . .

They expressed their satisfaction at the success of the eighth non-aligned movement ministerial summit held in Luanda from 2nd to 7th September 1985. On this issue, they noted that this summit had contributed in particular to strengthening the unity of the movement and to greater participation in the struggle against imperialism, neocolonialism, racism and apartheid. The summit expressed its total support for the decisions of the Luanda ministerial meeting and for the holding of the eighth summit of heads of state and government of the non-aligned movement to be held in the fraternal

Republic of Zimbabwe. The heads of state hailed the holding in Luanda in June of the SADCC summit and they reiterated their firm support for the economic liberation process in southern Africa, which runs counter to the hegemonic [word indistinct] designs of the racist Pretoria regime in this region.

The five reiterated their support for and solidarity with the front-line states in their struggle for peace and stability in southern Africa and against the warlike and racist policy of the Pretoria regime.

(?At the end of the meeting), the heads of state congratulated the democratic Republic of Sao Tome e Principe through its President, Comrade Dr Manuel Pinto da Costa, for its invaluable contribution in developing ties of fraternal co-operation among the five countries during the period of Sao Tome e Principe's chairmanship. The presidents expressed their deep satisfaction with the success of the proceedings of the summit of the heads of state of Angola, Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique and Sao Tome e Principe for encouraging prospects for multi-faceted co-operation to be developed between the five peoples and governments. They hailed the militant and fraternal atmosphere of this summit as well as the usual frankness, trust and mutual understanding that dominated the debates as proof of the special links that unite the five.

The heads of state announced that the seventh summit of the five Portuguese-speaking African countries would be held in Maputo, People's Republic of Mozambique, in 1987. The heads of states from the Republic of Cape Verde, the Republic of Guinea-Bissau, the People's Republic of Mozambique, and the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome e Principe expressed their deep thanks to the Angolan people, to the MPLA-Labour Party, to the government of the People's Republic of Angola, through its President, Comrade Jose Eduardo dos Santos, for the warm, fraternal and generous hospitality that they received as well as the members of their delegations. The President of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau, Comrade Joao Bernardo Vieira, expressed on behalf of his counterparts his thanks at the closing session.