

LETTERS

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OPPOSING VIEWS ON NKOMATI

A MAJOR ACHIEVEMENT

A cease-fire agreement between the government of Mozambique and the self-styled Mozambique National Resistance is a major achievement in the country's history. The talks in Pretoria reached a successful and constructive conclusion after several days of discussions. The cease-fire means that South Africa has injected more oxygen in the Nkomati Peace Accord . . . and comes at a time when Mozambique is passing through difficult economic problems, brought about, in part, by the MNR . . . If implemented, the cease-fire will bring peace to the country which has been at war since 1976. Economically, Mozambique will start to prosper again . . . the government's priorities will not be diverted to the buying of arms . . . Despite the warning that the violence will not end overnight, the government sees the road open for peace.

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THE NEW AGGRESSIVE MOOD OF SOUTH AFRICA

In the '60s, up to the period of the Angolan civil war, the imperialists had relied on mercenaries to do their dirty work. These soldiers of fortune—recruited, financed and armed by Western intelligence services—caused havoc in the Congo (now Zaire) and toppled the government of the Comoros Islands. But this tended to embarrass the West when the mercenaries got caught and were brought

to trial, as in Angola, where their nationalities were exposed. The new method evolved to overcome the problems caused by the use of mercenaries was to recruit local dissidents, making use of ethnic and regional differences to create internal strife. This is how the FNLA, UNITA and MNR were regrouped and made into ferocious killers of their own people on behalf of the apartheid regime and imperialism.

To complement that policy, the Western countries refused to arm the Frontline States while conniving in huge arms deals for South Africa by Western arms dealers and Zionist Israel. This left the Frontline States out on a limb as South Africa intensified the use of armed bandits with the clear message to the Frontline States: toe the line or suffer the consequences. This is the meaning of the recent statement by South Africa's President P.W. Botha that if southern African black states did not normalize relations with his regime "their people stand to suffer most in the end."

. . . Not satisfied with the Nkomati Accord, the apartheid regime is now demanding that Mozambique should accommodate within its structures elements of the MNR. The same is being demanded of Angola with regards to UNITA. This explains the fact that six months after the signing of the Nkomati Accord, the MNR's activities have intensified, while the withdrawal of South African troops from Angola has been halted.

It is a tragic sign of the state of affairs in the politics of southern Africa that the apartheid regime which refuses to speak to South African leaders like Nelson Mandela, finds itself in a position to demand that Angola and Mozambique should incorporate into their governments elements sponsored by South Africa . . . The new style adopted by South Africa can in no way hide the truth of the continuing aggressive mood of the apartheid state . . .

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