

Mozambique

Cooperation Commission Established With RSA
LD2110010888 Lisbon Domestic Service in Portuguese
0000 GMT 21 Oct 88

[Text] Mozambique and South Africa are to set up a joint commission for cooperation and development. The decision was made during bilateral negotiations which ended yesterday in Maputo. The South African deputy foreign minister, Jacobus Meiring, who conducted these negotiations, will be leading the South African delegation at the joint commission which will essentially be dealing with matters connected with the functioning of the Cahora Bassa hydroelectric dam, the rehabilitation of ports and railways, support for agriculture projects, and training of Mozambican technicians.

During his stay in Mozambique, the South African deputy foreign minister signed a cooperation agreement for the rehabilitation of Maputo port, the railway, and the road linking the Mozambican capital to South Africa. This afternoon before leaving Maputo, Jacobus Meiring spoke to RDP-1's [Lisbon Domestic Service] correspondent Marcelino Alves.

[Begin Alves recording] The South African deputy foreign minister told RDP-1 that he was convinced that Cahora Bassa would resume production next year and thought that the present agreements were proof of South Africa's seriousness towards Mozambique. He said that all this was possible due to the meeting in Songo between Presidents Chissano and Botha on 11 September.

As for the possibility of diplomatic relations being established between Mozambique and South Africa, Jacobus Meiring said that the development of cooperation would lead to this sooner or later and that everything depends on the Mozambicans. He said, however, that South Africa would not be pushing for the establishment of relations.

With regard to the Brazzaville quadripartite talks, he told RDP-1 that they would be resuming soon and that South Africa was doing everything possible to ensure that the process toward the establishment of Namibian independence begins on 1 November.

Jacobus Meiring is to return to Maputo on Tuesday [25 October] together with South African Foreign Minister "Pik" Botha to officially open the new South African office here in Maputo. [end recording]