

STATE VISITS to MOZAMBIQUE and MALAWI



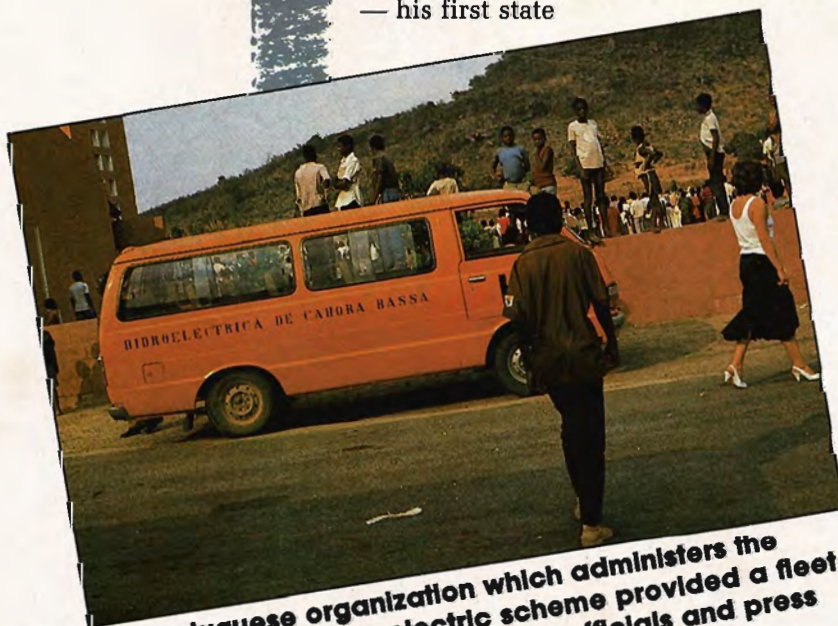
President Joachim Chissano of Mozambique extended a very gracious welcome to the State President of South Africa, Mr P W Botha, and expressed his conviction that South Africa can provide the solution to many Southern African problems

Close links of friendship and mutual co-operation were forged during this year's historic Spring when Mozambique and Malawi hosted an official visit by South Africa's State President, Mr P W Botha, to Cahora Bassa and Tete in Mozambique, and to Lilongwe and Monkey Bay in Malawi — his first state

world, the three presidents were nevertheless able to confer privately with each other in a relaxed, cordial way. Anyone could see that they were very pleased with the outcome of their discussions.

Friendship and mutual understanding — the hope of Southern Africa — gained a tremendous boost by this fact-to-face contact between three of its heads of state, which can only lead to great things: greater prosperity, warmer friendship and peace...

The distances covered were enormous (the flying time from South Africa to Cahora Bassa is some five hours), yet despite this, all the people in the various parties who were of African birth felt at home, in familiar surroundings. Africa, from its heart in Malawi to its southern most tip, South Africa, is Africa all the way. But each of the three countries involved in this friendship tour has its own special endowments: South Africa, its gold, minerals and splendid variety of scenery; Mozambique, the stupendous Cahora Bassa hydro-electric scheme and Zambezi River; and Malawi, its fertile green tea plantations and breathtaking Lake, unique in the world for its fish, found nowhere else. By forging ties and encouraging friendship, each one's assets can be utilized to the



The Portuguese organization which administers the Cahora Bassa hydro-electric scheme provided a fleet of orange cars and buses to take officials and press representatives to the Dam

visit to other African states in the Southern African region. Accompanied by a host of newspaper reporters and TV camera men from all over the

benefit of the others, and, given enough goodwill, the standard of living of the entire sub-continent can be raised. This, in a nutshell, is what all the talks were about — a few hectic hours which will result in enormous benefits affecting even the humblest of citizens.

Leaving their own country very early in the morning, the South African delegation arrived in Mozambique in the late mid-morning and were immediately conducted on a sight-seeing tour of Cahora Bassa Dam and generating plant (see our article "Experiment in Sanity"). Then followed more than two hours of talks held at the administrative offices of the Portuguese organization in charge of running the hydro-electric scheme.

In his welcoming speech, President Joaquim Chissano of Mozambique said: "I am in favour of detente and I do not fear criticism from other African states. We are building up more confidence, more trust on both sides, and this meeting in Mozambique is most significant."

The most important issue to be discussed was the restoration of the powerlines leading from Cahora Bassa to South Africa. It was originally planned that Mozambique would supply some 10 per cent of South Africa's electricity requirements from its hydro-electric generating plant but because of the destruction of about 500 pylons by insurgents, the scheme has been operating at 1 per cent of its capacity since 1982. South Africa has now guaranteed R35 million towards restoration costs and will supply logistic support in the form of the necessary materials and equipment, while Mozambique has undertaken security and defence by means of its armed forces.

Other matters discussed were health (combating malaria and treating Mozambican patients in South Africa), opening up about 15 new border posts to encourage small traders along the frontier, continuing with the upgrading of Maputo harbour, now in its second phase, and numerous other matters of mutual interest. In fact, there was so much to discuss that the talks continued far longer than was anticipated with the result that the South African president was very late in

leaving for his next destination in Malawi.

Before the South African delegation left, presents were exchanged and a press conference was held. What made the most profound impression of all was a statement by President Chissano. "South Africa is part of the solution to Southern Africa's problems," he said. And, "Apartheid has been an obstacle, but there have been reforms, substantial ones."

From Cahora Bassa the delegation flew to Tete to refuel the aircraft before continuing their journey to Malawi, where a royal welcome awaited them. Time and time again, officials and media representatives com-



The day of the state visit was a great occasion for the inhabitants of the little settlement of Cahora Bassa and everyone 'downed tools' to watch the five planes land on the landing strip between the mountains

mented on the courtesy and friendliness of the people of Malawi, who were obviously delighted by the state visit. Smiles are not unusual in Malawi and neither is unfailing courtesy. Furthermore, the complete absence of litter elicited wonderment in all the visitors. The consensus was that Malawi must be the cleanest state in Africa! It also has good roads.

Because of the lateness of his arrival, President Botha could not be taken to President Banda's holiday home on the shores of Lake Malawi at Monkey Bay as originally planned. The next day, official talks were held at Mzuzu where a red carpet was unrolled and a senior Malawian minister greeted the South African State

STATE VISITS to MOZAMBIQUE and MALAWI



President Kamuzu Banda of Malawi hosted President P W Botha on the second leg of the latter's African state visits — first to Mozambique, the nearer, and then to Malawi, arriving the same evening. Friendly discussions were held the following day. In the pictures President Botha is seen arriving, and presenting a present to President Banda



President on President Banda's behalf. Again, the careful organization with which the occasion had been planned was noticeable to all. Also, the discipline exercised by the people. For example, the child-

from their hearts. The route was lined with hundreds of flag poles, flying the Malawian flag, for a distance of some eight kilometres.

The Malawian and South African delegations conducted their talks at President Banda's residence and the number of reporters and photographers was limited to 10, all of whom were required to wear a jacket and tie. The two presidents sat side by side at the head of the table with the Malawians on their right and the South Africans on their left.

In an atmosphere of great cordiality, President Botha complimented President Banda on the high standards maintained in his country. Later when interviewed during a cruise on Lake Malawi on the President's boat, President Botha said, "It proceeds from one person — President Banda." In fact, the Malawians' love and respect for their President is one of the outstanding characteristics of Malawi. President Banda, in his opening remarks recounted events from 1979 onwards. He made no apologies for associating with South Africa, he said. Malawians were not ashamed either of giving South Africa credit for helping them. As everyone knows, the new capital city of Lilongwe was built largely



A never-to-be-forgotten cruise on the Lake was surely one of the highlights of the historic state visit of President Botha to Malawi

ren had been told not to cross a certain line (the road) and not one did. Smiling and waving, they greeted the entourage

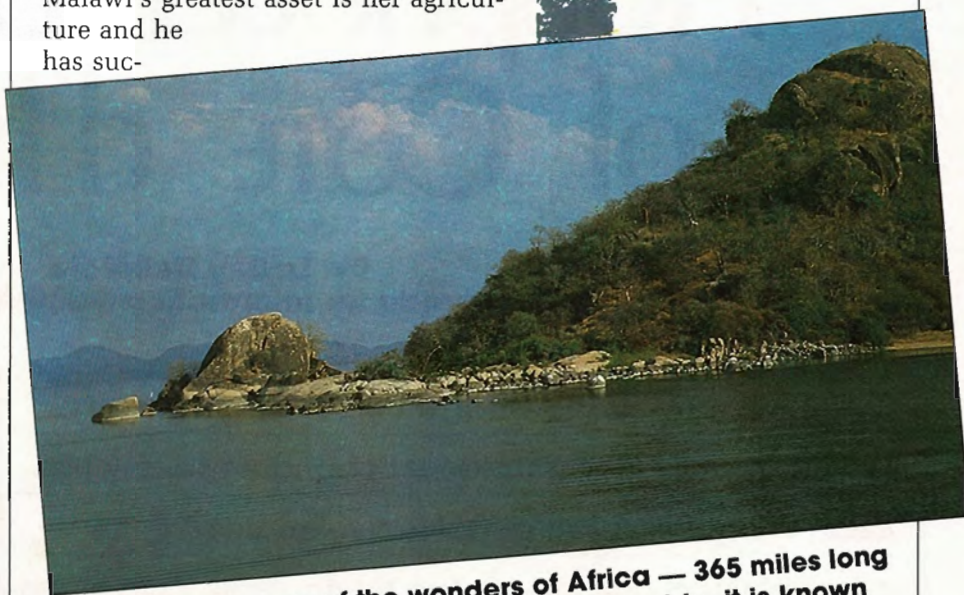
with South African financial assistance.

One of the matters discussed at the meeting between these two heads of state was a donation by South Africa of 3 000 tons of maize in recognition of the strain placed on the Malawian economy by 600 000 Mozambican refugees. It was also agreed that Malawi's debt to South Africa would be rescheduled on terms acceptable to both parties. Regional economic development, co-operation and security were also discussed.

After the meeting President Banda said that he stood by his policy of contact and cordial relations with South Africa, but that he had been vilified by other African leaders when he ignored calls to break off relations with South Africa. Things had changed a great deal in South Africa since his last visit there, he said. Turning to Malawi, he was happy to state that he had been able to achieve his three basic goals for the country: sufficient food for all, everyone well-dressed and each family living in a house with a roof that does not leak!

The state visit was concluded with a grand finale — a cruise on Lake Malawi for the South African delegation, which no one will ever forget. This unique lake is also one of the wonders of the world, and the cruise served to etch indelibly on every-

one's mind a memory of a beautiful, well run and disciplined country with a friendly, happy population, headed by a leader both strong and just. He has always believed that Malawi's greatest asset is her agriculture and he has suc-



Lake Malawi is one of the wonders of Africa — 365 miles long (in Malawian measurements) and 56 miles wide, it is known as the 'calendar lake' and has many species of fresh-water fish known nowhere else on earth

ceeded in preventing that worldwide phenomenon, intensified urbanization and overcrowding.

Leaving after dark at the end of the two-day trip, the South African delegation came away with assurances of goodwill and friendship on all sides. Surely, the greatest joy there is.



By: Lesley Dellatola

Photographs: Ryno Cloete



The Malawian president's guest house at Mzuzu was the venue for far-reaching discussions concerning the future of both countries and both statesmen were in a jovial mood after the meeting