

Chissano, Botha Note Common Desire for Peace
*MB1309194088 Johannesburg Television Service
in English 1800 GMT 13 Sep 88*

[Excerpts] Before President Botha and his entourage flew to Malawi late yesterday, he had an historic meeting with Mozambican President Joaquim Chissano. Both leaders committed themselves to peace, stability, and cooperation. President Chissano acknowledged that major reforms were taking place in South Africa and accepted an invitation by President Botha to visit South Africa in the near future. The meeting was at Songo in the Zambezi Valley. [passage omitted]

For President Botha it was the first time in 10 years as South Africa's leader that he had been welcomed in a Frontline State. There seemed to be an instant rapport between the two leaders, and they both bent over backwards to welcome each other and expressed the hope for positive progress in the talks.

[Begin recording] [Chissano] We know that the expectation for this meeting, not only in our country Mozambique, we believe that in South Africa too, we are for peace in our region. We are for stability in Mozambique. We are for peace in South Africa. And, we are for cooperation of all the countries in the region.

[Botha] The Republic of South Africa, and the government I represent are very much in favor to see our neighboring countries prosper, develop, because we prefer wealthy neighbors. Then we know it will also go well with us. And, in that sense, we are with you in seeking peace and cooperation. If we in southern Africa really concentrate on those matters where we can find common ground, I feel that we shall have the necessary success to build a southern African subcontinent of goodwill, not only, but also, of prosperity. [end recording]

It was then a case of exchanging gifts. For President Chissano an ancient map.

[Begin Botha recording] Your excellency, there is a Chinese saying that a journey of a thousand miles starts with one step. And I think it would be in remiss not to remember for a moment your distinguished predecessor, the late President Samora Machel, with whom I took the first step. Today as you and I take the second step forward, we will not look back, except to honor his memory. [end recording]

A symbolic woodcarving was presented to President Botha before both signed the visitor's book.