

PW Botha's historic meeting with two African heads of state last week should be seen as part of the greater peace efforts currently under way in the Southern African region ... Especially significant was the meeting on September 12 between Botha and his Mozambican counterpart, Joaquim Chissano, near the northwestern Mozambican town of Songo at the Cabora Bassa Dam.

... The main objective of the discussion between Botha and Chissano was to revitalise the ailing Nkomati non-aggression pact, signed between Botha and the late Mozambican President Samora Machel on March 16 1984 ... The Songo meeting certainly took some positive steps towards revitalising the Nkomati Accord which in 1985 collapsed following the discovery of the 'Gorongosa Diaries' which gave evidence of continued military support to the MNR rebels, therefore providing proof of SA's violation of the Nkomati agreement.

... According to a joint statement issued after the Songo meeting, the two leaders discussed the following:

- The reactivation of the Nkomati Accord and the promotion of the spirit of the accord.
- Road and railway connections between SA and Mozambique.
- Upgrading of the Maputo harbour which is of vital importance for import and export purposes not only for Mozambique but also for the nine-member SADCC grouping.
- Re-opening the Cabora Bassa Scheme and the provision of power to SA.
- The question of labour relations and improving employment conditions for about 93 000 Mozambican mineworkers in SA.

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