

## Chissano opens an *SAR 28/7/69* African door for De Klerk

MOZAMBIKAN PRESIDENT Joaquim Chissano has told SA that it could become a member of the community of southern African nations if it embarked on a "sound process of change" to eliminate apartheid.

In the past, there have been suggestions that SA's more than two decades-long isolation from Africa could be ended but this is the first unequivocal invitation to SA to end apartheid and join the African community.

Chissano's offer was made when he and National Party (NP) leader F W de Klerk held a three-and-a-half hour meeting--called at De Klerk's request and lasting 90 minutes longer than scheduled--during which SA proposed a "Marshall Plan" to promote economic development and regional co-operation in southern Africa.

Chissano's response reflected Africa's bottom line for any public association with SA. He said if SA ended apartheid, the countries in the region would work with it to help solve its problems.

A fundamental difference between them was that Chissano wanted SA to initiate change before the "Marshall Plan" was implemented, while SA believed that regional co-operation could begin while each country attended to its various internal problems.

De Klerk, who' also discussed the possibility of a regional summit in which SA would participate, explained to Chissano the NP's five-year constitutional plan. The plan, however, has been rejected by most black political movements in SA.

The two also discussed the 12-year-old Mozambican civil war and the prospects of peace in that country. Though Chissano accepted SA's assurance that the government was no longer supplying the Renamo rebels, he said "elements" in SA were doing so by plane at irregular intervals.

The South Africans, who included Foreign Minister Roelof "Pik" Botha, emphasised that SA did not have an "espionage" network to detect the people involved and in a free enterprise situation it was difficult for the government to stop them. SA required particulars of the alleged skydrops.

It was De Klerk's first essay into black Africa. He said it had provided significant opportunity to carry forward discussions initiated by Chissano and President Botha.

### Comment

Though some aspects of the co-opera-

tion between Mozambique and SA will continue, and will probably increase, the hoped-for major prize for SA of being an accepted economic partner of the southern Africa states will elude it until it takes practical steps to scrap apartheid.

The other states are paying particular attention to what may be termed the "apartheid vote" in the five-year-plan--where the much smaller number of votes of the white minority will produce the same number of representatives in the supra-parliamentary structure envisaged by De Klerk as the considerably larger number of votes from the black majority.

It is impossible for De Klerk to persuade the other states that his plan represents any real change in the present white-dominated parliamentary structure to meet the demands of the black liberation movements.

The present parliament works on a majority of whites exercising a majority vote on most issues against all others. The plan proposes that at the highest level of government no "group" will have a physical majority and decisions will be by consensus. This provides the opportunity for whites to retain their present privileges and powers by exercising a veto over all the others.

Internally, SA will face the long haul of going through the motions of getting the five-year-plan off the ground, only to find, as with the tricameral system, that it will not work because blacks will not accept it.

In the region, there will be stalemate with SA doing clandestine deals with some of its neighbours but failing miserably in trying to gain the acceptance it claims.

Chissano is expected to try to persuade Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe to drop his hardline opposition to SA, but, if SA persists with the five-year-plan, he is unlikely to be successful, despite the noticeably slight softening of tone in Mugabe's recent references to SA.