

B. AFRICA

MOZAMBIQUE: PRESIDENT CHISSANO INTERVIEWED ON RELATIONS WITH S AFRICA

SABC-TV in English 1835 gmt 19 Jul 89

Excerpts from interview with Mozambique President Joaquim Chissano, by Linda van Tilburgh

[Chissano] We are trying to assess what can be done in order to bring peace to convince these people [the MNR] to stop the atrocities and so on. And this on the basis that the interests of South Africa in Mozambique now are guided by a different philosophy; they think [words indistinct] Mozambique. I am sure that they no longer need to co-operate with such a group of so-called Renamo, and the same for the groups of Portuguese, probably, who were still in contact with Renamo.

So, we think that the time is appropriate, and we can have even the co-operation of several of those forces which were before openly against us [words indistinct] get some interest in them trying to push to bring an end to this war. But we need to be in contact with those who are fighting us, and the first step was done. We are trying to convey to them what are the basis [as heard] which will enable a direct dialogue between the government and themselves, and we have set up this basis, and we are trying now to transmit those bases to them. We are doing this through what we believe could be credible sources for them. So, we are in this phase; once they accept these principles, we will embark on dialogue with them to start the whole process for peace. Today, I said we may negotiate everything but not the change of the political order in Mozambique.

[Van Tilburgh] Mr President, do you think that other countries, including South Africa, could make a contribution in your peace initiatives?

[Chissano] For South Africa, we regard it as a duty for South Africa to help us to finish with the war in Mozambique for the part which South Africa took in the past in this war, one way or another, and secondly, because, in South Africa, there are still people who are sympathetic to the so-called Renamo and who are very influential towards Renamo. . . This is what concerns South Africa, but there, the countries who are interested, the United States of America, Federal Republic of Germany, France, Great Britain, they are all interested, especially because of our relationship with them on economic field, and cultural field, and even the diplomatic field are very well developed.

[Q] It seems that relations between South-Africa and Mozambique have definitely improved, especially after your Songa meeting with President P.W. Botha. What is the present state of relations between the two countries?

[A] You must note that, for me to meet President Botha, we had a little bit of a job to try and improve our relationship prior to the meeting and so on before I met President Botha, signs of improvement were there and are those signs which enabled me to meet him. Otherwise people would have asked me what has changed. In fact, we had started discussing

Cahora Bassa, and when we met, it was to take the final decisions on what we should do about Cahora Bassa. We hope that South Africa will do all it possibly can, so that this project assistance [changes thought] and so all other partners, this is very important. . .

I must confess also that we feel that there is some internal problems of South Africa also are making it difficult; of course, I am speaking about tourism. We cannot open tourism and confine tourism to Mozambique and South Africa alone. We have to count both, the whole world and the issue of apartheid; the continuation of apartheid in South Africa jeopardises all efforts in the economic field, which, in this case, would not be only the economic field, it will be on the social and cultural context. .

[Q] There seems to be a wave of peace initiatives in southern Africa at the moment. What is the possibility of a summit meeting of African leaders, including South Africa?

[A] To enable us to do this diplomatic opening for South Africa we need more signals, and those are related with the, unfortunately, with the internal situation in South Africa; with apartheid. Well, there was something else, which was Namibia, but the way the process is going in Namibia, sometimes people are afraid that something may fail, and some leaders in the region would not like to give, to shake this hand of friendship with South Africa to see thereafter things collapse in Namibia for instance, so this is one thing which must be completed fully and to give us some confidence. . .