
Britain to increase aid for Marxists

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BRITAIN is expected to deepen its commitment to Mozambique's Marxist Government, beset by civil war and famine, as a result of a three-day visit by President Chissano who arrives in London today.

British officials emphasise that they want him to defeat the regime's South African-backed opponents, Frelimo, who control vast tracts of the country and have paralysed its land communications.

The British military training team in Nyanga, Zimbabwe, has just doubled its intake of Mozambican officers and NCOs on three-month training courses. By the end of the coming 12 months nearly 500 men will have passed through the school.

Further British military assistance will be discussed during President Chissano's visit, although Britain appears reluctant to send military advisers to the country.

Other types of assistance have increased steadily during the past five or six years. Food and emergency aid is expected to be valued at £11.3 million during the current financial year.

In addition there is bilateral aid for specific projects estimated at £4.5 million and a sizeable proportion of the £35 million Britain has committed to restoring black Southern Africa's rail links between the interior and the Indian Ocean.

Mr Chissano's visit to Britain is the first he has made outside Africa since he succeeded President Machel, who was killed in an air crash, last October. It is a sign of the importance he, like his predecessor, attaches to the relationship with Mrs Thatcher's government.

He will discuss with Sir Shridath Ramphal, the Commonwealth Secretary-General, sending a Mozambique observer group to the October Commonwealth summit. It is unlikely, though, that he will press for Commonwealth membership, despite suggestions on those lines from Meputo recently.