

Sub-Saharan Africa

Paper Views UK Aid Package for Mozambique
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[Own correspondent B. Pilyatskin report: "Aid and Assistance Promised"]

[Text] Maputo—Geoffrey Howe, British secretary of state for foreign and commonwealth affairs, has concluded a 3-day visit to Maputo.

According to a report in the weekly DOMINGO, an agreement to grant Mozambique aid totaling 1 million pounds sterling, which will be used to purchase road equipment and machinery, was signed as a result of the talks. In addition, the head of the British foreign policy department announced his government's intention to give financial assistance to Mozambique to the tune of 15 million pounds sterling to restore the railroad line in the Limpopo River basin.

The satisfaction Howe expressed with the results is also connected, in the opinion of observers, with the fact that he was visiting Maputo just a few days after the Mozambican-South African summit meeting. As announced here, it opens up opportunities for broad cooperation between the two countries, and M. Thatcher's Conservative government has always opposed the RSA's isolation and the introduction of all-embracing economic sanctions against it. The Johannesburg newspaper THE STAR recently cited these figures: "Some 235 British companies operate in the RSA. Although British investments in the South African economy have been reduced under the impact of world public opinion, they still make up 40 percent of all foreign capital investments in South Africa."