

Chissano Meets Thatcher, Mugabe at Nyanga

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[Text] Nyanga today could be an example to the world of cooperation among peoples in order to achieve peace and economic prosperity, not only for one country, but the entire region. This was stated by President Joaquim Chissano before some 150 Mozambican trainees, British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, President Robert Mugabe, respective delegations, and a battalion of journalists.

The presidents of Mozambique and Zimbabwe, and the British prime minister, arrived at the Nyanga military training camp at about 1300 [1100 GMT]. The then had a private luncheon, during which tripartite talks were held.

Speaking to journalists, Robert Mugabe said during the meeting the three state leaders discussed Mozambique's situation and trilateral cooperation, namely, the Nyanga military training program, and the rehabilitation of the Limpopo Railroad, including the latter's security.

Speaking to Radio Mozambique, Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher referred to a British initiative for the region, saying Great Britain will do its best to help Mozambique defeat the armed bandits. Margaret Thatcher stressed: It is absolutely vital for the future development of Mozambique. Actually, in a brief speech to Mozambican trainees, Margaret Thatcher unequivocally defended the need to fight terrorism in Mozambique, which is embodied in armed bandit actions. She described such actions as abominable.

The British leader then said she was proud of the outcome of military training provided by British and Zimbabwean officers to young Mozambican recruits. The same view was expressed by President Chissano, who stressed that these youths had learned very quickly.

Speaking at the start of a display of military maneuvers, the leader of the British instructors stressed that the 150 Mozambican youths, forming part of Nyanga's fifth military course, were mere civilians some 4 weeks ago.

President Joaquim Chissano is accompanied in his visit by Cooperation Minister Jacinto Veloso; Lieutenant General Hama Thai, chief of general staff; Armando Panguene, Mozambican ambassador to the United Kingdom; and Francisco Madeira, diplomatic adviser in the office of the President.