

Meets Press, Departs

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[Text] The British foreign secretary, Sir Geoffrey Howe, has said that the security situation in Mozambique is improving. Sir Geoffrey said that he knew this, not only from government officials, but also from members of aid organizations working in Mozambique. Sir Jeoffrey was speaking at a press conference shortly before his departure from Mozambique after a 3-day visit. Sir Geoffrey also affirmed Britain's wish that the South African government should not give aid to the MNR bandits in Mozambique. He said that Britain welcomed the recent meeting between President Chissano and the South African head of state, P.W. Botha, and that Britain supported any practical steps abetting peace in the region. Regarding what he discussed with President Chissano during his visit, Sir Geoffrey said he could not disclose what the head of government said to him. However, he said that Britain's assistance was very much appreciated. While in Maputo, he announced a British contribution of \$25 million for the country's economic recovery program. Sir Geoffrey Howe also announced that Britain would give a further \$25 million for rehabilitation of the Limpopo railway line in southern Mozambique.

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