

Britain Exchanges Letter of Aid Intent

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[Text] In Maputo yesterday, Mozambique and Great Britain exchanged letters in which the United Kingdom stated its intention to increase aid, with a view to helping Mozambique's balance of payments, as well as providing technical assistance to Mozambique.

For the balance of payments, Great Britain granted 5 million pounds, or about 5 million contos [1 conto equals 1,000 meticals] as the first installment of a 15-million pound grant announced by Sir Geoffrey Howe, British secretary of state for foreign and Commonwealth affairs, when he visited Mozambique last month.

Also yesterday, Mozambique and Great Britain signed accords on the supply of mechanical engineering services to the national directorate for roads and bridges, and for British support of the teaching of English and for pre-university schools. These accords are worth 737,000 pounds.

The three accords were signed by James Allen, British ambassador to Mozambique, and Mozambican Cooperation Minister Jacinto Veloso.

Speaking shortly after the signing of those accords, Minister Veloso told his British counterpart that Mozambique will know how to respond to the United Kingdom's understanding.

[Begin Veloso recording] Great Britain has shown understanding for Mozambique's current difficult situation. This means that we will be using this aid to continue our economic rehabilitation program. We will use this aid in the best possible manner.

Mr Ambassador: Kindly accept our thanks. We are very happy about this action that will help consolidate our bilateral relations. It shows greater friendship and solidarity on the part of the United Kingdom, as well as between our peoples and countries. [sentence as heard]
[end recording]

In turn, James Allen described Mozambique-Great Britain friendship and cooperation as encouraging and said they are now expanding in a number of areas.