

Mozambique

Chissano Discusses Thatcher Meeting

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[Text] In Maputo this evening, Mozambican President Joaquim Alberto Chissano granted an interview to Teresa Lima, a reporter in Radio Mozambique's international newsdesk.

President Joaquim Alberto Chissano described the redefinition of United Kingdom's stance concerning armed banditry, violence, and terror as one of the most notable results of his meeting with British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher yesterday.

This stance is very important, because it shows understanding of so-called Renamo's true nature, notably in its acts against the Mozambican people, the Mozambican head of state said.

In his interview with Radio Mozambique this evening, President Joaquim Alberto Chissano also referred to the practical and concrete results of his meeting with British Prime Minister Thatcher at Nyanga.

[Begin Chissano recording] Well, we have two sets of talks. The first was a tripartite set of talks, in which we discussed mainly the issue of military training of Mozambican soldiers at Nyanga, Zimbabwe. We wanted to know to what extent the number of trainees at Nyanga could be increased. It was concluded that, for the moment, the number of trainees will be doubled. Thus, instead of only one company being trained at a time, two

companies will be trained at a time now. This, in turn, means that the United Kingdom will step up its material participation in that training, and in equipping the companies that will undergo training.

We assessed the work that has already been done on the Limpopo Railroad and we concluded that work is developing normally. The United Kingdom undertook to continue supporting that project and to do all in its power to ensure its success.

Thus, thought will be given to the necessary measures that will ensure greater successes in the rehabilitation of the Limpopo Railroad, notably in the fields of finance, defense and so on.

The second set of talks centered on Mozambican-British relations. I have already spoken about continued military cooperation. Secondly, there is Great Britain's financial support for Mozambique.

The British prime minister has announced that the United Kingdom will give 10 million pounds sterling to the People's Republic of Mozambique to help Mozambique's balance of payments. In addition to that, the United Kingdom will make 3 million pounds sterling available to the People's Republic of Mozambique to help the rehabilitation program for refugees and displaced people. These programs will be implemented by nongovernmental organizations.

The British prime minister also told us of the United Kingdom's decision to give Mozambique approximately 15,000 tons of cereals through the donors' conference to be held in New York in April. This will be the United Kingdom's share of aid at the donors' conference.

These are the concrete material results of the talks. [end recording]