

## UK gives a boost to Frontline aid

By Michael Morris,  
The Star Bureau

LONDON - British military and other aid to Frontline states has gone up another notch after Foreign Office Minister Mrs Lynda Chalker's week-long visit to Mozambique and Malawi.

And Britain has undoubtedly made further advances in its efforts to win support for a more positive approach to the problems in the region.

As a Whitehall source

put it: "To have such an obvious sign of welcome from countries in the Frontline is very encouraging."

British influence is now clearly much greater in southern Africa than might have been supposed possible after the Commonwealth summit in Vancouver.

There is evident recognition among African leaders, though perhaps sometimes grudging, that despite Prime Minister

Mrs Margaret Thatcher's resolution not to be told what policies to adopt (on South Africa, in particular), Britain remains the one member of the international community most willing and able to become significantly involved in their future.

Mrs Chalker was able to demonstrate this with pledges of aid to Malawi and Mozambican.

She returned home "tired, but happy that her venture was a success", a

Foreign Office source said.

It was emphasised in Whitehall that the chief success of her trip was the apparent understanding African leaders were gaining of the value of Britain's approach.

The source said: "We were very warmly received, and in neither country was there criticism of the United Kingdom's policy. In fact, Britain was commended for the political work we are doing.

"Of course, we made it clear our policy would not change — and we made it clear in South Africa that the fact that we had a different philosophy about how to bring about the end of apartheid did not indicate that the system was any less repugnant in our view."

Mrs Chalker has returned home with a greater insight into the difficulties President Joaquim Chissano of Mozambique faces politically with

the MNR.

She told him of Britain's view: that there was not likely to be a military solution to the conflict.

The question of alleged South African complicity in the MNR's campaign in Mozambique was raised.

"It was made clear to us that there is deep suspicion that South Africa is involved ... but at the same time, nobody is able to show us incontrovertible evidence," the source said."

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