

Comments on Arrival

*MB1709183388 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese
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[Text] Geoffrey Howe, British secretary for foreign affairs, arrived in Maputo today on a visit at the invitation of Mozambican authorities. Geoffrey Howe stressed on his arrival at Maputo International Airport that his visit aims to strengthen bilateral cooperation:

[Begin Howe recording in English fading into Portuguese translation] We came here in 1986. This time, I hope to meet with President Joaquim Chissano, Foreign Minister Pascoal Mocumbi, and other Mozambican Government officials. The Mozambique Government organized this to coincide with Pope John Paul II's visit to this country.

We are concerned about the situation in southern Africa. We have shown that concern in various ways, notably through the recent announcement that Her Majesty's government would grant 3 million pounds in aid for Mozambican refugees. This aid was recently pledged at the Oslo conference. Among many other issues I hope to discuss during the visit is the recent, very important meeting between Presidents Chissano and Botha, as well as other regional issues, including peace prospects for Angola and Namibia's independence.

I also hope to learn something about Mozambique's security situation. In addition, I expect to meet with certain Mozambican military units tomorrow whose training we have helped. I am also interested in learning about progress within the framework of the economic rehabilitation program. Within this context, our support has been obvious through our increasing contributions.
[end recording]

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