

IV(B) - A F R I C A

Howe in Zimbabwe and Mozambique: Mugabe rejects British position (ME/8308/ii) On 10th July, Harare radio reported Prime Minister Mugabe's meeting with British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe and Mugabe's subsequent news conference. Speaking at the news conference, Mugabe said that he "rejected the claim by the British Prime Minister, Mrs Thatcher" that sanctions against South Africa would hurt the people of South Africa and of the frontline states. He went on to note the cost to Zimbabwe of rerouting trade because of South Africa-backed MNR activities in Mozambique, the need for Zimbabwe to engage in joint military operations with Mozambique against the MNR and the cost of maintaining strong defences against South African aggression.*

Howe's arrival in Mozambique was reported by Maputo radio on 11th July, as was his meeting with his Mozambican counterpart, Joaquim Chissano. During talks between the two men, Chissano said that "although Mozambique cannot apply sanctions, this cannot be used as a pretext for other countries refusing to apply them against South Africa". The Mozambican Minister told Howe that the Mozambican government was "prepared to listen to his suggestions so as to have another approach to the issue and hold further talks". On 11th July, Maputo radio's external service in English broadcast a commentary which noted that Mrs Thatcher had gained respect in the region when she ended her support for Bishop Muzorewa in Zimbabwe and had then been involved in the achievement of independence by Zimbabwe, but that the respect "has swindled almost to nothing because of her opposition to decisive action against Pretoria".*

(Please correct the typographical error in the penultimate line of the second paragraph in ME/8309/ii: the phrase, appearing in a Maputo radio commentary on Mrs Thatcher's policies should read "respect 'has dwindled almost to nothing'".