

FOLLOWING IS AN EXTRACT FROM AN ADDRESS BY MR CHRISTOPHER PATTEN, MP, MINISTER FOR OVERSEAS DEVELOPMENT TO THE CARNEGIE COUNCIL, NEW YORK, ON THURSDAY 9 JUNE 1988.

LET ME TURN NEXT TO MOZAMBIQUE, AN ALREADY IMPOVERISHED COUNTRY NOW SUFFERING THE TRAUMA OF A BLOODY CIVIL WAR. THE RESULT OF AN APPALLING CATALOGUE OF ATROCITIES IS A MASSIVE FLOW OF REFUGEES FROM MOZAMBIQUE TO NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES, ALONG WITH WIDESPREAD DISPLACEMENT OF THE POPULATION WITHIN THE COUNTRY ITSELF.

AGAIN, THIS SITUATION STEMS FROM A COMBINATION OF ALL THE FACTORS WHICH FORCE PEOPLE TO BECOME REFUGEES - POVERTY, WAR, FAMINE, DROUGHT, AND THE LEGACY OF INAPPROPRIATE POLICIES, FORTUNATELY NOW BEING DISCARDED. WHAT SEEMS CLEAR IS THAT THE MOST IMPORTANT CAUSE OF REFUGEE FLOWS IS THE SYSTEMATIC AND DREADFUL BRUTALITY EXACTED BY RENAMO ON THE CIVILIAN POPULATION. THAT IS WHY THOUSANDS HAVE FLED TO MALAWI, SWAZILAND AND OTHER NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES - TO ESCAPE THE INDISCRIMINATE KILLING OF WOMEN, CHILDREN AND VILLAGE ELDERS.

IN THIS SITUATION ESTIMATES OF THE SCALE OF SUCH ATROCITIES HAVE TO BE TREATED WITH SOME CAUTION. HOWEVER, IT HAS BEEN SUGGESTED THAT PERHAPS 100000 PEOPLE HAVE DIED AT RENAMO'S HANDS OR STARVED TO DEATH OVER THE LAST TWO OR THREE YEARS.

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY HAS RESPONDED WITH A MAJOR HUMANITARIAN RELIEF EFFORT. BRITAIN'S OWN EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE LAST YEAR TOTALLED 20 MILLION POUNDS STERLING, INCLUDING OUR SHARE OF EUROPEAN COMMUNITY AID. WE ALSO COMMITTED 20 MILLION POUNDS IN LONG-TERM BILATERAL AID AND HAVE ALLOCATED 45 MILLION ALTOGETHER TO THE SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT CO-ORDINATION CONFERENCE MUCH OF WHICH WILL BE SPENT IN MOZAMBIQUE. THIS YEAR WE ANNOUNCED AT THE RECENT MAPUTO CONFERENCE A FURTHER 8.5 MILLION POUNDS IN FOOD AND OTHER EMERGENCY AID, MOST OF WHICH IS BEING CHANNELLED THROUGH NON-GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES.

THE OTHER ASPECT OF THE PROBLEM IS THE LARGE NUMBERS, POSSIBLY 600000, OF MOZAMBIKAN REFUGEES IN NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES.

AT LEAST 400000 OF THESE ARE IN MALAWI AND THE UNHCR EXPECT TO BE ASSISTING HALF MILLION THERE BY THE END OF THIS YEAR - ONE OF THE LARGEST REFUGEE POPULATIONS IN AFRICA. WE HAVE PROVIDED CONSIDERABLE ASSISTANCE, BOTH TO UNHCR AND TO RELIEF AGENCIES IN MALAWI, FOR THESE REFUGEES. SADLY, DESPITE THE SPLENDID EFFORTS OF THE AGENCIES AND THE MALAWI GOVERNMENT, THE SITUATION REMAINS CRITICAL IN THESE CAMPS, NOT LEAST BECAUSE OF RENAMO RAIDS IN SEARCH OF FOOD. EVEN IN EXILE THERE SEEMS TO BE NO PEACE FOR THESE OPPRESSED AND SUFFERING REFUGEES.

THOUGH THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE LOOKS BLEAK, THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY AND THE COUNTRIES OF SOUTHERN AFRICA MUST EXAMINE HOW BEST THEY CAN RESPOND TO THE HUMANITARIAN CRISIS IN MOZAMBIQUE AND WORK TO ELIMINATE ITS UNDERLYING CAUSES. THE KEYS TO PEACE IN THE WHOLE SOUTHERN AFRICAN REGION ARE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND, ABOVE ALL, THE ELIMINATION OF APARTHEID. WE WANT TO SEE IT REPLACED BY A NON-RACIAL, REPRESENTATIVE SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT IN SOUTH AFRICA. THE QUESTIONS ON APARTHEID ARE NOT IF IT IS GOING TO BE ENDED BUT WHEN AND HOW IT WILL GO.

UNTIL THAT HAPPENS, WE SHALL DOUBTLESS HAVE TO CONTINUE TO COPE WITH REFUGEES IN THE REGION. FORTUNATELY, THERE ARE SOME RECENT SIGNS THAT SOUTH AFRICA AND HER NEIGHBOURS ARE BEGINNING THE PROCESS OF REACHING UNDERSTANDINGS WHICH MAY EDGE THE REGION ALONG THE PATH TO GREATER STABILITY. WE SHALL OF COURSE DO WHATEVER WE CAN TO ENCOURAGE AND BUILD ON THIS PROCESS - FOR EXAMPLE, TO START THE LONG AND DIFFICULT WORK OF REPAIRING THE EFFECTS OF WAR ON AGRICULTURAL LAND AND FOOD PRODUCTION.

