

# Mozambique's three priorities

*Times*

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The latest South African raid on Maputo seems unlikely to upset the plans of President Machel of Mozambique, who is due to set foot in Britain for the first time tomorrow in search of money, manpower and a new image.

He needs private investment to develop his country's resources in the face of endemic Third World ailments like balance of payments problems and a crippling foreign debt.

He needs skilled manpower to teach his own workforce, whose technical education was woefully neglected before independence from Portugal eight years ago.

He is even reported to be seeking military aid in the form of a communications system and a training team for his 12,600-strong armed forces - although it is questionable how far Britain would comply.

But most of all, his aides say, he needs to persuade Europe that, Marxist-Leninist though he may be, he remains first and foremost an African, working for the good of his own country not the destruction of anyone else's.

He was well received in Lisbon on his six-nation tour. But he is hoping for even more from Britain, whose government might have reason to be grateful for his mediation during the 1979 Lancaster House talks on Zimbabwe.

Moreover, he is, curiously, a fan of Mrs Margaret Thatcher, whose determination over Zimbabwe's independence won considerable respect in Maputo.

There will be lunch at Buckingham Palace tomorrow and talks at Downing Street on Thursday when he is expected to be offered a new aid package,

although this is likely to take the form of technical help rather than extra cash. Mozambique has received more than £22m worth of British aid since 1976.

Then there will be discussions with British businessmen whom he hopes to interest in his country, and with charities like Oxfam about the serious drought which has devastated Mozambique's agriculture - especially in the south, whose four million population are showing signs of famine-related diseases.

Collectivization policies for the peasant farms are said to have proved no more successful in Mozambique than they have been in the Soviet Union, while attempts to transplant people from overcrowded urban slums back to their rural homes could hardly have come at a worse time.