

President Machel's Visit to Zimbabwe

(a) Maputo home service in Portuguese 1030 gmt 17 Jun 86

Excerpts from report:

President Samora Machel today began a three-day working visit to Zimbabwe. . . The presidential delegation includes Mario Machungeo, Minister of Planning; Oscar Monteiro, Minister in the Presidency for State Administration; Alcantra Santos, Minister of Transport and Communication; Armando Panguene, Deputy Minister of Defence and FPLM's National Political Commissar; and Eneas Comiche, Governor of the Bank of Mozambique. The delegation was seen off at Mavalane airport by Marcelino dos Santos, Secretary of the Standing Commission of the People's Assembly, and other government officials.

[Note: The South African agency (0852 gmt 18 Jun 86) said Machel's delegation also included Maj-Gen Antonio Hama Thai, the Air Force Commander.]

(b) Harare home service in English 0500 gmt 18 Jun 86

Text of report:

The visiting Mozambican president, Comrade Samora Machel, says the military co-operation between Zimbabwe and Mozambique must be complemented by more dynamic co-operation in other areas. He said while both countries are members of the SADCC, there has to be co-operation in political, diplomatic and economic fields for this regional co-operation to find its full expression. Comrade Machel was speaking at a banquet hosted in his honour by the Acting President, Comrade Nolan Makombe, in Harare last night.

The Mozambican President said unity is the logical response to the war imposed on the two countries by imperialism and armed banditry. Comrade Machel noted that southern Africa is going through its darkest and most complex military period with the Botha regime continuing its policies of violence, destabilisation and aggression.

Earlier, the Acting President said the only peaceful pressure left to end apartheid is the imposition of comprehensive economic sanctions by the international community. Comrade Makombe said anyone opposed to sanctions cannot claim to be seriously searching for a solution to the South African crisis. He said Zimbabwe and Mozambique are keen to find ways of defeating the regional machinations of apartheid. Comrade Makombe said Mozambique's commitment to a search for peace in Southern Africa has to be reciprocated by the racist Pretoria regime and its allies.

[Note: Later on 18th June (1115 gmt) Harare radio said that President Machel accompanied by Robert Mugabe had "visited the border camp in Nyanga where 48 Mozambican army officers are receiving basic military training". Earlier, the radio said, President Machel had planted a specimen of one of the loveliest ornamental shrubs in the country at the guest house in Harare; "the planting occasion is viewed as a symbolic development in the Third World countries".]

(c) SAPA in English 0852 gmt 18 Jun 86

Excerpt from dispatch datelined Harare, 18th June:

Southern Africa was going through its "darkest and most complex military situation" with South Africa continuing to attack some of the countries in the region, Mozambique's President Samora Machel said in Harare last night. Speaking at a banquet in his honour, he disclosed that closer military, political and economic co-operation with Zimbabwe had been discussed in extensive private talks with the Zimbabwean Prime Minister, Mr Robert Mugabe. The existing military effort by the two countries against the Renamo [Mozambican National Resistance movement, MNR] rebels must be complemented by a more dynamic relationship in other areas, said Mr Machel, who arrived yesterday for a three-day "working visit".

Zimbabwe is believed to have up to 6,000 troops stationed in the former Portuguese colony, a reduction on the 11,000 sent last year for a massive pre-rainy season offensive against Renamo.

Diplomats in Harare believe the Mozambican leader, who was Mr Mugabe's closest ally in the war to end white rule in Rhodesia, wishes to persuade Mr Mugabe to join another all-out drive soon to clear the rebels from strategic zones between Zimbabwe and the Indian Ocean.

The war against Renamo, which had been imposed on Mozambique and Zimbabwe by "imperialism and armed bandits" made greater co-ordination and unity imperative, said Mr Machel. Pretoria was continuing its policy of violence, destabilisation and aggression which had become characteristic of apartheid, he said. The South African government resisted and discouraged all efforts by the international community to eliminate apartheid which was "the only requirement for peace in the region. We want to destroy the myth of racial superiority. There are no inferior or superior races", he said. "This is what Zimbabwe and Mozambique have done and I would like everyone to follow suit."

South Africa's government was now "caught in a web of its own making", intensifying repression of its own people after losing the initiative.

Referring to the 19th May South African raids on alleged African National Congress targets in Botswana, Zimbabwe and Zambia, Mr Machel said they were part of aggressive policy which included support for armed "bandits" in Mozambique, Angola and Zimbabwe. The aim of the policy was to impair normal development of the countries concerned and regional co-operation between them. It was a "war of terrorism" to enable South Africa to preserve its supremacy, said Mr Machel, making his most strongly worded attack on Pretoria since signing the Nkomati [Incomati] non-aggression pact in 1984. . .