

Mugabe Addresses Banquet

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[Text] Zimbabwe has vowed to intensify its involvement in the fight against South African-sponsored Renamo bandits in Mozambique. This was said by the president, Comrade Robert Mugabe, at a banquet hosted in his honor by his Mozambican counterpart Comrade Joaquim Chissano in Maputo last night. The president reiterated Zimbabwe's total commitment to fight side by side with the Mozambican Armed Forces in order to eliminate banditry, saying it was a matter of national duty and survival.

He stressed that survival of Mozambique is vital for the survival of a truly independent Zimbabwe. Comrade Mugabe warned Mozambicans to guard against South Africa's evil strategy of disinformation aimed at creating disunity and mistrust between the people of Zimbabwe and Mozambique. He also called on the international community to impose comprehensive and mandatory sanctions against the Pretoria regime.

On bilateral relations between Zimbabwe and Mozambique, Comrade Mugabe said these are growing steadily, adding that his visit will further intensify existing excellent mutual cooperation between the two countries.

Comrade Mugabe expressed his satisfaction in progress made so far in the rehabilitation of the joint transport system, and in the preparation for joint ventures in the hotel and tourist industry.

While welcoming the current talks involving Angola, Cuba, South Africa, and the United States, Comrade Mugabe paid tribute to Angolan and Cuban internationalist forces for their heroic defense of Angola. On the Middle East issue, the president urged the international community to take active steps towards convening an international peace conference involving all parties, including the PLO, to end the regional conflict.

Comrade Mugabe, who is the current chairman of the Nonaligned Movement, also urged Iran and Iraq to cooperate with the UN secretary general in the implementation of Security Council Resolution 598 to bring an end to the 8-year-old Gulf war.

In his address, Comrade Chissano called for the strengthening of ties between Zimbabwe and Mozambique in the economic, technical, scientific, defense, and cultural fields. He said through closer cooperation the two countries will overcome numerous common problems, including South Africa's acts of destabilization.

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