

Holds New Conference, Departs

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[Text] President Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe said in Maputo this afternoon that the security situation in Mozambique is fast returning to normal. The Zimbabwean leader was speaking at a press conference at the end of his 3-day state visit to Mozambique. Mr Mugabe said he had come to establish how much progress has been made in bringing greater security and peace to Mozambique as both countries have operated as partners against South Africa's apartheid agents. He said he was very glad and impressed by the fact that the security situation was fast returning to normal.

Mr Mugabe said there was greater peace now than 3 years ago in Maputo and other provinces. He said he had also noticed that the people of Mozambique, as before, fully backed the Frelimo Party and the government. This, Mr Mugabe said, was a happy feature as the relationship between the people and Frelimo was created by the struggle for liberation.

In his press statement, Mr Mugabe also spoke well of what he said were strides Mozambique was beginning to make in recovering its economy. He said he and his delegation had seen many projects which speak of dynamism in the country's economic thrust. He expressed the hope that these attempts will continue to be made across the board, as the security situation improves, to bring about dynamism in agriculture and industrial production.

President Mugabe praised his Mozambican counterpart, Joaquim Chissano, and the Frelimo Party for holding the Mozambican people together in unity after the tragic death of Samora Machel in 1986.

Asked whether during his talks with President Chissano, the question of the security of the Limpopo railway line was discussed, President Mugabe said both countries wanted the line to function. Jointly, we will make sure that sufficient security is provided to make the Limpopo line function the way we want to see it function, President Mugabe said.

Asked to comment on this week's proposals by South Africa's foreign minister, Roelof Botha, on the current peace talks on Angola and Namibia, President Mugabe had this to say:

[Begin Mugabe recording] If, in fact, it is the true position South Africa is putting, I would want to say it is regrettable firstly. It is made contrary to the understanding that nothing should be published that is subject to discussion at the conference, and secondly that there are new elements which did not appear in the first original proposals—those points which they agreed upon in America. Therefore it is a strange package, extremely strange and quite surprising to some of us. But again, Botha is a strange and surprising person. [end recording]