Chissano and Dhlakama Agree to Sign Cease-fire by October 1, 1992

Rome, August 7 -- In an important step toward peace in Mozambique, Mozambican President Joaquim Chissano and RENAMO leader Afonso Dhlakama agreed that a General Peace Agreement should be signed by October 1, 1992, thereby ending the 16-year-old war. (See Joint Declaration, p. 3)

The Declaration establishes guarantees for "complete political freedom" and "personal security to all the citizens of Mozambique and to all members of political parties." It also makes the two leaders responsible for monitoring the implementation of the General Peace Agreement, in particular the cease-fire and the electoral process.

The Rome Summit was organized by Presidents Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe and Ketumile Masire of Botswana.

In his speech at the signing of the Joint Declaration, President Chissano hailed the occasion as "an important step" for peace. Peace, in his words, means "reconciliation, tolerance, tranquility, solidarity, and common thinking." (Press release, Embassy of the Republic of Mozambique, 7 August, 1992)

General Strike a Success in South Africa

An estimated 4 million people stayed away from work August 3-4 in one of the largest strikes South Africa has experienced. The strike was followed on August 5 by occupations of major urban centers throughout the country. In Pretoria alone over 15,000 people, including Nelson Mandela, marched on the government building to present their demands for an interim government and constituent assembly. (South Africa Political Update, August 14, 1992)

Angolan Abductions

A separatist faction from the relatively moderate Front for the Liberation of the State of Cabinda (FLEC), wants independence for Angola's oil-rich northern province of Cabinda.

Last week the guerrillas abducted and took hostage two more foreign nationals and have threatened not to release them or any others who will be captured in the future. Both Unita and the MPLA government, who are the country's leading political parties, have rejected the demand to give independence to Cabinda. (New Nation, July 30, 1992)

Mother, woman

Mother, woman:
Walk and raise your fist,
Affirm your desire to be free.
You are soil. You are sap.
You are strength. You are work.
Thus you are life.
In the fields,
In the factories,
In the home,
You have the truth of your strength
From your life-giving bosom.

Don't walk three yards behind
Your comrade and the Revolution,
Walk, in front of them.
It's your place by right.
And when they want to exploit,
prostitute, violate your naked body,
refuse them,
fighting, refuse them.
Mother, woman: the Revolution is you.

An anonymous Mozambican poet
(Challenge, June/July 1992)

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Faced with a country ravaged by war and drought and the plight of the refugees and their Malawian hosts deserves more attention. "The press is saturated with reports of atrocities in South Africa, and the crisis that precipitated their movement."

The US and Botswana forces held joint military maneuvers in January. "Operation Silver Eagle" was one of the largest field exercises ever seen in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Analysts view US interest in South African borderline states as an attempt to put itself in a position for direct military intervention in South Africa, should it be needed. Apparently, the Bush administration is worried about the policies to be followed by a future black-ruled democratic South Africa. (SARDC, July 1992)

Malawi Shelters Bulk of Refugees

Faced with a country ravaged by war and drought and the fact that 3 million of the 15 million population is in imminent danger of starvation, many Mozambicans have been seeking refuge in other countries. The biggest Mozambican refugee concentration is in Malawi, which is providing for over one million. Malawi has one of the highest ratios of refugees to nationals, with one in every 8 people being a refugee.

Canadian External Affairs Minister Flora MacDonald, at an international conference on the crisis held last month, said the plight of the refugees and their Malawian hosts deserves more attention. "The press is saturated with reports of atrocities in Yugoslavia and Azerbaijan," said MacDonald. "But little attention is paid to the trials and tribulations of millions of refugees in southern Africa and the crisis that precipitated their movement." (Africa News, August 3-16, 1992)

Gender Bias in South African Schools

According to a study for the National Education Policy Investigation (NEPI) on how gender bias in the schools effects students, affirmative action may be needed to ensure that girls get equal treatment in South African classrooms.

"Gender ghettoization" -- girls relegated to academic streams which prepare them for domesticity and certain job sectors -- is common knowledge. Researcher Kate Truscott documents that 90 percent of women go into jobs which reflect the caring, servicing role of wife and mother, such as nurses and teachers. Truscott traces this sexual division of labor to the classroom.

Truscott suggests that a range of practical skills, both technical and domestic, should be taught to both girls and boys in order to make the curriculum more inclusive. (Weekly Mail, July 24-30, 1992)

RENAMO Steps Up Mutilations

In Gaza province RENAMO gangs have stepped up the practice of mutilating victims. In the case of men this includes cutting of their sexual organs or castration. Recently, the road to Maqueze in Gaza was a scene where RENAMO had placed several women's bodies whose vaginas had been cut open with sticks inserted inside. A captured RENAMO commander, Severiano Cumbe, asked why RENAMO did that, said, "it's to show FRELIMO that we're angry, that we're annoyed." (Mozambique Information Office, August 11, 1992; MozambiqueFile, August 1992)

South African 32 Battalion Released to RENAMO

Some members of two South African battalions, 32 and 31 battalions, which President F.W. DeKlerk has ordered to be dissolved, are being integrated into RENAMO. (Mediafax, August 7, 1992)

Women will have to fight

ANC and SACP Executive member Cheryl Caorlus stated in a speech at a seminar on empowering women that the fight for democracy must include emancipation for women. "Democracy cannot be complete when 53 percent of the population is not free." She demanded that policies be put in place to buttress constitutional provisions for women in the bill of rights. Also to improve their legal position, women must push for improved matrimonial, rape in marriage, and abortion laws. South African laws often placed the affairs of women in the hands of their husbands. (New Nation, July 10-16, 1992)

Minimum Wage in Mozambique Continues to Fall

Since the introduction in Mozambique of structural adjustment measures in 1987 by IMF and the World Bank, there has been a massive deterioration of living conditions for low-paid workers. While prices for basic food items rose in Mozambique, the minimum wage remained at US $16 per month, resulting in a nearly 50% reduction in real wages over the past 18 months.

Mozambique Granted IMF Loan

On June 17 Mozambique was granted its fourth World Bank loan since 1987. The newest loan from the World Bank's soft loans affiliate International Development Association (IDA) of $180 million is targeted to support the structural adjustment program and to further measures of privatization. (Mozambique Information Office, July 9, 1992)
We, Joaquim Alberto Chissano, President of the Republic of Mozambique, and Afonso Macacho Marceta Dhlakama, President of RENAMO, having met in Rome, in the presence of H.E. Robert Gabriel Mugabe, President of the Republic of Zimbabwe; H.E. Emilio Colombo, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Italy; the representative of H.E. the President of the Republic of Botswana, Dr. Gaositwe Keagakwa Tibe Chiepie, Minister of Foreign Affairs; the mediators in the Mozambican Peace Process, on. Mario Raffaelli, representative of the Italian Government and coordinator of the mediators, Mgr. Jaime Goncalves, Archbishop of Beira, professor Andrea Riccardi and don Matteo Zuppi of the community of St. Egidio, AND

recognizing the need for the immediate establishment of Peace in Mozambique;

reaffirming the commitment of the Government of the Republic of Mozambique and RENAMO to put an end to the hostilities in Mozambique;

determined to do all in our power to end the catastrophe resulting from the combined effects of the war and the drought in our country;

noting the progress achieved in the Rome peace negotiations between our respective delegations;

considering the spirit of the Gaborone meeting of July 4, 1992;

We now, therefore hereby bind ourselves to the following:

i. guaranteeing the conditions allowing complete political freedom, in accordance with internationally recognized democratic principles;

ii. guaranteeing personal security to all the citizens of Mozambique and to all members of political parties;

iii. accepting the role of the international community, and especially that of the United Nations, in monitoring and guaranteeing the implementation of the General Peace Agreement, in particular the cease-fire and the electoral process;

iv. honoring the Principles contained in Protocol No.1, enjoining the Government of Mozambique "not to act in a way that is contrary to the terms of the Protocols that are established, not to adopt laws or measures and not to apply current laws that may eventually be contrary to these Protocols". Also requiring that "RENAMO undertakes not to combat by force of arms after the entry into force of a cease-fire, but to conduct its political struggle observing current laws, within the framework of the existing State institutions, and respecting the conditions and the guarantees laid down in the General Peace Agreement";

v. safeguarding political rights, clarifying that the principles contained in Protocol No.1 are valid and also related to the problem of the constitutional guarantees, raised by RENAMO, and illustrated in the document presented to President Mugabe. To this end, the government of the Republic of Mozambique will submit to the Assembly of the Republic the adoption of the legal instruments, incorporating the Protocols and the guarantees, as well as the General Peace Agreement, into Mozambican Law; and,

vi. on the basis of the above principles, and of our commitment, as contained in this Solemn Declaration, We, Joaquim Alberto Chissano, President of the Republic of Mozambique, and Afonso Macacho Marceta Dhlakama, President of RENAMO, now hereby mandate and instruct our respective negotiating delegations in the Rome peace process, to complete, by October 1, 1992, the approval of the remaining Protocols as foreseen in the Agreed Agenda, therefore allowing the signing of the General Peace Agreement by that date.

The signing of the General Peace Agreement and the adoption by the Assembly of the Republic of Mozambique of the provisions referred to in paragraph "v" of the present Declaration, will make effective the cease-fire agreed upon in the General Peace Agreement.

Joaquim Alberto Chissano
President of the Republic of Mozambique

Afonso Macacho Marceta Dhlakama
President of RENAMO

Robert Gabriel Mugabe
President of the Republic of Zimbabwe, chairperson
AIDS in Southern Africa

The spread of the killer disease, AIDS, is casting a dark shadow over health programs across the world, according to a 1991 UNICEF report. The situation is even more desperate in view of the years of efforts and successes achieved by Southern Africa member states in reducing deaths through primary health care.

AIDS is already having a serious effect on health services which are now burdened by AIDS diseases. In a country such as Malawi, which already has a high infant mortality rate, deaths of children with AIDS are dramatically increasing the figures. HIV incidence of children under five ranges from six percent in Malawi to 25 percent in Botswana, most of whom are unlikely to live over three years.

Likely to be worse off in the near future in terms of coping with the disease are Mozambique and Angola. In Angola, where only 30 percent of the population has access to health facilities, AIDS will be difficult to monitor and control. Despite the fact that war in both countries has slowed the spread of AIDS, it has fostered other illnesses which will make people more vulnerable to the epidemic. "In large numbers, people here suffer from hunger and sickness," says Maria Jones, Secretary General for the Angolan Association for the Fight Against AIDS. "In these conditions, the ability to fight diseases like AIDS is greatly reduced." (SARDC, July 1992)

Mozambican Runner an Inspiration in 1992 Olympics

Mozambican runner Maria Mutola placed 5th in the women's 800 meter race and 9th in the 1500 meters in the Olympics this summer. She remains Mozambique's hopeful for the 1996 games in Atlanta.

Teachers Pass Resolution to Support Mozambique

The American Federation of Teachers adopted on August 15 a resolution of their support for the people of Mozambique. Submitted by the Albany Public School Teachers' Association, Local 2455, this unprecedented resolution advocates peace and increased humanitarian aid from the US, and affirms the AFT's solidarity with the teacher unionists in Mozambique.

Ideas for Action

- The MSO is continuing its appeal to raise funds for emergency food aid for victims of the drought in Mozambique. Checks made out to the Mozambique Embassy or the MSO and memoed "drought relief" can be sent to the Mozambique Solidarity Office.
- The MSO is currently acquiring more information about the situations in Angola and East Timor. Any ideas or suggestions would be most welcome.

Books available from the Mozambique Solidarity Office:

- Alex Vines. RENAMO: Terrorism in Mozambique. ($13)

Checks can be made out to the Mozambique Solidarity Office. Please add $3 per book for postage.

Also available: Authentic Capulanas from Mozambique. Capulana fabric is traditionally worn by wrapping it around the body. Other purposes include panel designs for decoration. Call the MSO for more information about prices and specific designs.

Subscribe

To sign up for a year-long subscription to Baobab Notes, send a check made out to the Mozambique Solidarity Office to 343 S. Dearborn, #300, Chicago, IL. 60604.

- $5 low income
- $10 regular income and organizations
- Here is a contribution for the continuation of the MSO's work

name: ____________________________
address: __________________________
city, state, zip: ____________________

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