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Tilden J. LeMelle, *Chairman*
Jennifer Davis, *Executive Director*

To : Africa Fund Trustees and Friends
From : Jennifer Davis
Re : Africa Fund Observer Mission, Mozambique Elections.
Date : October 24 94

I am happy to report that the members of our team of observers to help monitor Mozambique's first multi-party elections have all reported in their safe arrival in Maputo. Elections will be held on October 27th and 28th, and today was the last day for political campaigning. According to Ruth Brandon Minter, our delegation co-ordinator, the day was active and noisy!! Yesterday final ecumenical and inter-religious services for peaceful elections were held all over Mozambique. "All seems calm" she reports.

The Africa Fund purpose in sponsoring and organizing a non-partisan delegation, with representatives from religious, non-governmental and solidarity groups is to support the credibility and accountability of the election process, which will determine the future of Mozambique.

These elections will be the culmination of a peace process which brought the sixteen year war between the Frelimo Government and Renamo (Mozambique National Resistance) to an end. This brutal and costly war made refugees of 1.5 million Mozambicans and displaced another 3.5 million. Peace has brought millions streaming home; any future government will face enormous tasks in healing wounds and reconstructing the schools, roads, hospitals and homes which are the fabric of society.

If the national elections are seen to be free and fair they will consolidate the peace and allow ordinary Mozambicans to begin rebuilding their lives and their nation.

If the elections appear flawed, an Angolan scenario might occur, with Renamo renouncing the ballot, or large areas of the countryside being engulfed in sporadic local banditry and lawlessness. Much is therefore at stake.

Our AF team members are being deployed all over Mozambique along with fellow-monitors from the National Council of Churches and the U.S. Catholic Bishops' Conference. We are grateful to the Christian Council of Churches of Mozambique for agreeing to host and undertake logistical arrangements for this entire U.S. group. A generous grant from the John D. and

Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation will enable AF monitors to reach remote rural areas, where their presence may be particularly important.

These are tense days for Mozambicans. One of our team members reports: "The general situation seems to be one of fear-what will happen after elections - combined with optimism - it will work out, everyone wants peace."

Key areas will be the most populous provinces - Cabo Delgado, Nampula and Zambezia. We will have monitors in all these areas.

Communications are likely to be very difficult - as Mozambique is not a land of many phones and faxes. I will keep you posted as we get reports. Please do not hesitate to call me if you want to check the latest information. Votes will be counted on site, so we do not expect most of our monitors back in Maputo until 31st of October.

INTER PRESS SERVICE INTERNATIONAL NEWS
FRIDAY OCTOBER 21, 1994

SOUTHERN AFRICA-POLITICS: SUMMIT TO DISCUSS MOZAMBIQUE

By Paul Chintowa

DAR ES SALAAM, Oct. 21 (IPS) -- Southern African leaders meet in Zimbabwe on Oct. 25 in a bid to make sure that Mozambique remains peaceful after next week's multiparty elections, a senior Tanzanian official disclosed here today.

The official said leaders of the Frontline states -- Angola, Botswana, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe -- want to convince President Joaquim Chissano to set up a government of national unity if he wins the Oct. 27-28 poll.

"We want to avert another war like that in Angola. We want to force Chissano to forget differences with Renamo," said the official, who did not want his name quoted.

"What we will do is convince Chissano to set up a government of national unity," he said.

Diplomats here were optimistic Chissano that would accommodate members of the former Mozambique National Resistance (Renamo) rebel movement in a new government.

"If Chissano will not agree to this, then he will be inviting further trouble," said a Western diplomat, based in the Tanzanian capital.

Several other nations in the world have been trying to convince Chissano to form a government of national unity to avert further civil war.

More than one million people died and another million fled to neighboring countries during a 16-year war which began with Mozambique's independence from Portugal in 1975. The fighting stopped when the two belligerents signed a peace accord in Rome in October 1992.

The Tanzanian official said next week's summit will also discuss the current situation in war-torn Angola amid reports the warring parties are due to sign a long-awaited agreement to end almost 20 years of civil war.

The leaders will also discuss the political situation in Lesotho, which recently re-established a democratically-elected government which had been ousted by King Letsie III, the official said.

"We will need courage and commitment of all Frontline leaders to ensure peace returns to Southern Africa," he added.

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CHISSANO RULES OUT COMPROMISE WITH OPPOSITION

MAPUTO, Oct 24 (AFP) - Mozambique's incumbent President Joaquim Chissano on Monday ruled out any compromise with the opposition, just days ahead of the country's first democratic general elections.

Chissano told a news conference here on the last legal day of campaigning before the polls Thursday and Friday, "I accept opposition in parliament, but cannot accept opposition in my government".

The head-of-state, generally classed as front runner in the presidential race of October 27 and 28, said international pressure for him to form a government of national unity had been reduced, if it still existed at all.

"Those pressures were based on a fear, that Angola's situation could be repeated," he argued referring to southern Africa's other former Portuguese colony which plunged back into civil war after the rebel National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) refused to accept losing general elections to the government in September 1992.

Chissano dismissed recent allegations by his main rival, the leader of the formerly rebel Mozambique National Resistance (RENAMO), Afonso Dhlakama, that his ruling Mozambique Liberation Front (FRELIMO) party is preparing to rig elections.

"RENAMO is trying to create a pretext to justify its own bad results. They may even reject the results at first but I don't think they will go so far as causing trouble, eventually they will accept," he said.

While Dhlakama is angling for a top executive post such as vice presidency, Chissano said if he loses he will only get a government post if he accepts defeat.

"Dhlakama could only enter my programme, with no pre-conditions," Chissano said, claiming that since its creation RENAMO's opposition to his party has not been on ideological grounds, and "RENAMO would oppose anything, good or bad".

The generally low-key election campaign has heated up over the last two days before Monday's climax, when Chissano is to address his last rally in the capital, while Dhlakama seeks the vote on his home turf, in Mozambique's second city of Beira.

AFP