

a Master Set

CONFIDENTIAL

Subject on:
MOZAMBIQUE
Relations August 79.



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

14 March 1985

Dear Len,

PRIME MINISTER'S MEETING WITH PRESIDENT MACHEL OF
MOZAMBIQUE

I enclose a record of the Prime Minister's meeting with President Machel of Mozambique, while in Moscow for President Chernenko's funeral.

I am copying this letter and enclosure to Richard Hatfield (Cabinet Office).

(C.D. POWELL)

L.V. Appleyard, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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RECORD OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S MEETING WITH PRESIDENT MACHEL
OF MOZAMBIQUE ON 13 MARCH 1985 AT THE BRITISH EMBASSY, MOSCOW

Present:

Prime Minister
Foreign Secretary
Mr. C.D. Powell
Mr. L.V. Appleyard

President Machel
Advisers

The Prime Minister began by asking President Machel for his assessment of the present internal situation in Mozambique. President Machel said that since the last time they met in New Delhi the situation had deteriorated in Mozambique. This was due to interference both from South Africa and from Portugal, and even from Malawi, where the security and police forces were involved. There was no doubt that South Africa was failing to implement the Nkomati Agreement.

The Prime Minister asked whether this was due to activities by the South African Government or by individuals. President Machel said that it was hard to make a distinction between the two. The Government had overall responsibility for the activities of all the citizens on its soil. The Mozambique Government had just finished an important meeting to assess the situation. The meeting had concluded that South Africa had not abandoned its intention of forcing the Mozambique Government to negotiate direct with Renamo. He was not suggesting that the South African Prime Minister was involved, but it was obvious that individual members of the Government and the Army, including Cabinet members, were implicated. Their ultimate aim was to force the Mozambique Government to share power with Renamo. The Prime Minister asked whether the Mozambique Government was asking us to

contact the South African Government. President Machel said that he was.

At this point the Prime Minister had to leave for another meeting (President Machel having apologised for arriving very late). The discussion continued with the Foreign Secretary.

President Machel repeated that South Africa was still harbouring and supporting Renamo. The leaders of Renamo were exclusively Portuguese, so that South Africa was fundamentally supporting the interests of Portugal. The Mozambique Government had no intention of re-negotiating its independence after 10 years. The Foreign Secretary said that whenever we raised this issue with the South African or Portuguese Governments, they assured us that they were trying to put a stop to these activities, which were carried out by individuals. Had President Machel any firmer evidence of Government involvement?

President Machel repeated his earlier accusations that members of the South African Government and Army were involved, but not the South African Prime Minister. The Foreign Secretary said it was widely believed that Renamo had a large stock of weapons and equipment before the Nkomati Agreement was signed. He wondered whether they were not using up their old stock. President Machel replied that this showed that when South Africa signed the Nkomati Agreement they were preparing to violate it in advance. Besides, Renamo were still getting support from South Africa. The Foreign Secretary pointed out that the Cabora Bassa Dam contributed to the Mozambique and South African economies as well as to Portuguese investors. It was in the interests of none of the Governments for it to be damaged. President Machel simply repeated that he had evidence that the South Africans were well aware of who was involved in South Africa. The Foreign Secretary asked what steps had been made to integrate former members of Renamo in Mozambique society. President Machel said that 3,000 prisoners had been integrated, but there was no question of integrating the Portuguese leaders of Renamo.

The other members of Renamo were simply instruments of the Portuguese leadership. There were of course some British and German individuals involved as well. But of course neither Government was implicated. Morocco, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Mali, the Comoros and Malawi were all involved in one way or another, some as staging posts.

President Machel concluded by saying that the First anniversary of Nkomati would shortly take place. He could see no practical achievements which the Agreement had brought. But Mozambique was now getting more support from the African countries and far more support from socialist countries - more than during their war of liberation. The Foreign Secretary asked again whether President Machel wanted us to talk to the South Africans. President Machel assented.

C.D.P.

14 March 1985