

RESTRICTED

H8



La
Am

Subject copy filed on:-
Mozambique: Aug 79: Aid to Mozambique.

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

10 March 1980

Dear Robin,

Call by Mr. Cabaco

As you know, President Machel's envoy, Mr. Cabaco, called on the Prime Minister earlier today. He was accompanied by Mr. Honwana and his Private Secretary, Mr. Come. The Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary and Mr. Luce were also present.

Mr. Cabaco said that he had been sent by President Machel to convey the President's congratulations on the happy outcome in Rhodesia. Mozambique, like the entire international community, was enthusiastic about the outcome. The other countries of the region were already feeling the benefits of peace. South Africa would have to tackle the problem of finding a solution to its problems in a shorter term than had previously seemed likely. However the most immediate problem was Namibia. In the spirit of the close co-operation between Britain and Mozambique in recent months, talks had already begun between the two countries about Namibia.

Mr. Cabaco said that in President Machel's view, Britain had achieved new status in Africa. Britain and Africa had been reconciled. British colonialism no longer existed. Throughout the Rhodesian negotiations, Britain and Mozambique had been allies. Their tactical objectives had on occasions differed but the goal had always been the same. President Machel had greatly appreciated the frankness with which HMG had communicated with him. The two countries should now aim to continue as allies in consolidating what had been built so far. President Machel hoped that a British delegation would come to Mozambique soon to discuss the economic consolidation of Zimbabwe and of the region and the strengthening of bilateral links between Britain and Mozambique.

The Prime Minister said that the success in Rhodesia would not have been possible without President Machel's help. Help offered quickly when asked for and in time of need was the help most appreciated. HMG were delighted with the outcome in Rhodesia. Zimbabwe would start as an independent nation with the goodwill and confidence of the world as a whole. This was a wonderful start. The country was rich in resources and had a great future. Britain would continue to take a major interest in the region. We had historic ties with it. It would be essential to try to bring South Africa along. The other countries in the region should try to encourage the South African Government when they took

RESTRICTED

/ positive

RESTRICTED

- 2 -

positive action such as a reduction in discrimination. It was essential that all the countries in the area should work together for the good of the region.

As regards President Machel's invitation, the Prime Minister said that she was pleased to have been asked to help. It seemed to her an excellent idea for a team to go out to Mozambique. She suggested, however, that it might be wise to wait until it was a little clearer what was happening in Rhodesia. The Prime Minister concluded the discussion by asking Mr. Cabaco to carry her best wishes to President Machel.

I enclose a copy of the text of the letter left with the Prime Minister by Mr. Cabaco.

Yours ever

Michael Alexander

R.M.J. Lyne, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

RESTRICTED