



DISCUSSION BETWEEN SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS, RT HON SIR GEOFFREY HOWE, AND SOUTH AFRICAN MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS, MR R F (PIK) BOTHA AT CHEQUERS 11.45 AM, SATURDAY, 2 JUNE 1984

Present

Rt Hon Sir Geoffrey Howe  
Mr Malcolm Rifkind  
Sir Antony Acland  
Sir John Leahy

Mr Pik Botha  
Mr H van Dalsen  
Dr N Barnard  
Mr C von Hirschberg  
Mr L Evans  
Mr L Manley

1. While the two Prime Ministers were having a private talk at the start of the meeting, there was a separate discussion between the Foreign Ministers about South Africa's relations with Mozambique and Zimbabwe. The following is a brief resumé.

Mozambique

2. Mr Botha stated several times that South Africa was not giving any support to the RENAMO rebels. All contact with them had been broken off since 16 March. The South African Government (SAG) had assured the Mozambique Government that they abided both in the letter and spirit by their undertaking to this effect in the agreement they had signed. He agreed, in answer to persistent questions, that the rebels (whom he estimated to number about 15,000) seemed to be well supplied and to be getting arms etc from somewhere, but apart from saying that they already had big stocks and offering a tentative suggestion that they might be getting supplies through Malawi he could give no explanation for this.

3. Mr Botha went on to say that RENAMO would have to be offered an inducement if they were to stop their campaign. It was important that they should do so if Mozambique was to receive the injection of economic assistance and investment that was necessary to demonstrate the correctness of President Machel's decision to turn to the West. The Portuguese and South African Governments had agreed to consider whether they might offer the rebels a joint guarantee that if they put down their arms no harm would come to them and they would be helped to obtain employment. It would of course be necessary to persuade President Machel to accept this. South Africa might be able to take some 2,000 of the men to work in South African mines (in addition to the 40,000 Mozambicans already there). But a pump-priming fund of \$30-40 million should also be established to

/provide





provide employment in Mozambique itself, create training centres, enable roads to be built etc. For this purpose European countries should set up a joint fund in cooperation with the United States; Britain's contribution, he suggested, might be of the order of \$5 million. Sir Geoffrey Howe explained that following President Machel's visit to London we had already increased our Governmental aid, but Mr Botha said that bilateral aid was not enough: what was needed to make the right impact was a highly visible joint Western effort. Mr Rifkind said that the best inducement to RENAMO to stop fighting would be the cessation of their supplies of arms. It might be possible, perhaps, to upgrade European Development Fund assistance, but he did not know whether it could be done on the sort of scale suggested by Mr Botha. Sir J Leahy pointed out that apart from Governmental aid there could be some British private investment: Lonrho, for example, were interested in re-establishing certain tourist resorts in Mozambique. Mr Botha indicated that a South African hotel group would be doing that as well. Amongst other things South Africa would also be providing a line of credit for consumer and capital goods, helping rebuild the railways, furnishing a new citrus fruit cooling plant, and giving assistance in the medical field and with the fisheries. But their resources were limited and he wanted to repeat his plea for a joint Western effort. Dr Crocker had told him that the US Government would give it their serious attention. Mr Botha added that President Machel had agreed to promulgate new legislation on the protection of investments and property rights.

4. Mr Botha made a special point of Mozambique's need for helicopters to protect the 700 kms of electricity transmission lines from the Cabora Bassa power station to the South African border against sabotage. With the arms embargo still in force people in South Africa would not understand it if the SAG were to supply these and they would not do so, but Mozambique would have to get them from somewhere. He had discussed this in Lisbon and the Portuguese understood the problem well. [Mr Botha did not say it in so many words, but the clear implication of what he said was that we should talk to the Portuguese about it.]

#### Zimbabwe

5. Sir Geoffrey Howe invited Mr Botha to speak about South Africa's current relations with Zimbabwe. Mr Botha said he had come to the conclusion that the CIO in Harare must have been feeding Mr Mugabe with information which caused him to adopt an emotional attitude against South Africa. He (Botha) had had lunch in Cape Town recently with Mr Mugabe's Ghanaian brother-in-law, who had told him that Mr Mugabe had a fixation that the SAG were training "enemy units" in the Northern Transvaal and were out to destroy him. He had sent back a message via this same man to the effect that while the SAG did not like him (Mugabe) they accepted the fact that he was the elected Prime Minister and that anyone else would be worse. (Mr Botha

/explained





explained that he had couched his message in these frank terms to give it greater credibility.) Even more recently he had received another visitor from Zimbabwe, who had told him that the Zimbabwe Government wanted to know why the SAG had left them out of their recent approaches to their neighbours. Further than that he had gone on to say that the Zimbabwe Government would now be willing to consider a security agreement with South Africa. He (Botha) believed that the Zimbabweans were beginning to feel desperate because there was a distinct possibility that 20 or 30 big industrial concerns might decide to pack up and leave the country. They knew that if that happened the economy would collapse completely.

6. At this point the meeting ended and the participants joined the two principals.

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