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FN MAPUTO

TO PRIORITY FCO

TELNO 488

OF 160800Z OCTOBER 85

INFO ROUTINE WASHINGTON, PRETORIA.

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MIPT

MACHEL'S MESSAGE TO PRIME MINISTER.

1. WITHIN THE FORMALITY OF THANKS, THE LANGUAGE IS WARM. THE STYLE 'DEAR SENHORA PRIME MINISTER' IS UNUSUALLY INFORMAL FOR HERE AND INTENDED TO INDICATE FRIENDSHIP BEYOND THE POLITENESS OF PROTOCOL. THE PORTUGUESE OF THE THIRD PARAGRAPH CARRIES TONES OF APPRECIATION FOR THE SCRUPULOUS WAY ('DILIGENCIA') IN WHICH THE PRIME MINISTER HAS ALWAYS FOLLOWED UP THEIR CONVERSATIONS, MOST RECENTLY BY WRITING TO PRESIDENT BOTHA. WHEN GIVING ME THE MESSAGE, CHISSANO DREW ATTENTION TO MACHEL'S GRATITUDE FOR THIS (MY TELNO 481).
2. CHISSANO SAID THAT, AS I KNEW (FROM STANDING BY AT SHORT NOTICE FOR AN INFORMAL AUDIENCE WITH THE PRESIDENT AT ONE OF HIS HOUSES), MACHEL HAD WANTED TO EXPRESS HIS THANKS PERSONALLY TO THE THREE GOVERNMENTS THROUGH THE AMBASSADORS. THIS HAD NOT BEEN POSSIBLE AT THE LAST MOMENT. HE HAD THEREFORE BEEN INSTRUCTED TO CONVEY MACHEL'S THANKS ORALLY INDIVIDUALLY AS WELL AS BY LETTER. OUR READINESS TO RECEIVE THE PRESIDENT WAS MUCH APPRECIATED. THE TALKS HAD BEEN USEFUL AND GOOD. THE ARRANGEMENTS HAD BEEN EXCELLENT. THANKING HIM I SAID THAT I HAD REPORTS NOT ONLY FROM THE OFFICIAL SIDE OF THE PROGRAMME. BUSINESSMEN PRESENT HAD SPOKEN OF THE IMPACT MACHEL'S PERSONALITY HAD MADE ON THEM AT THE LANCASTER HOUSE LUNCH. THIS WAS EQUALLY IMPORTANT. GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS WERE ONLY A PART OF THE STORY.
3. ON THE DETAIL OF THE DISCUSSIONS, CHISSANO SAID THEY HAD BEEN CONCERNED THAT THE PRIME MINISTER HAD THOUGHT MACHEL WAS 'ANGRY' WITH HER OVER SANCTIONS. PERHAPS A MESSAGE FROM WASHINGTON OR ELSEWHERE HAD BEEN MISUNDERSTOOD. MACHEL RECOGNISED OUR DIFFICULTIES AND RESPECTED THE SINCERITY OF OUR VIEWS, EVEN THE VALIDITY IN OUR ARGUMENTS. THE QUESTION WAS DIFFICULT FOR BOTH OF US. BUT APARTHEID AND THE WEAPONS AGAINST IT WERE MORAL QUESTIONS FOR MOZAMBIQUE, IN WHICH ECONOMICS DID NOT ALWAYS HAVE THE PRIME CLAIM. THEY WERE NOT CALLING FOR DISINVESTMENT OR A FULL RANGE OF MANDATORY ECONOMIC SANCTIONS NOW. HE HAD HIMSELF INDICATED IN LONDON IN JULY AS OUR

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GUEST THE AREAS OF COMMON APPRECIATION OF THE PROBLEM AND THOSE ARGUMENTS THE MOZAMBICANS COULD APPRECIATE. THEY HAD TOLD THE AMERICANS ALSO THAT THEY WERE NOT SEEKING DISINVESTMENT BUT THE WEAPONS OF SANCTIONS COULD BE A POWERFUL ONE, WHICH AS THE PRESIDENT HAD EXPLAINED, MIGHT HAVE TO BE PURSUED. WHAT HAD WORRIED MACHEL IN WASHINGTON WAS THE DEGREE OR OUR ISOLATION ON THIS. THE REPORTS COMING IN FROM MUGABES AND OTHERS VISITS TO HAVANA HIGHLIGHTED THIS. THE PRESSURE FROM PUBLIC OPINION IN THE WEST AS WELL AS OTHER CONTINENTS FOR MOVEMENT ON APARTHEID WOULD NOT GO AWAY.

4. I REHEARSED OUR VIEWS AND THE EXTENT TO WHICH WE WERE AS MUCH AS OTHERS ALREADY LIMITING OUR CONTACTS WITH SOUTH AFRICA. I ASSURED CHISSANO THAT THE RECORDS OF THE MEETINGS I HAD RECEIVED SHOWED THAT THE TALKS WERE FRANK AND CLEAR. I KNEW THAT THE PRIME MINISTER HAD TAKEN CAREFUL NOTE OF MACHEL'S CLARIFICATION.

COMMENT

5. MOZAMBICANS CONTINUE TO LET THIRD PARTIES KNOW THAT THE LONDON VISIT WAS A SUCCESS. THE MOST INTERESTING COMMENT PASSED ON IS FROM CHISSANO TO THE UNHCR REPRESENTATIVE, A CAPE VERDIAN WITH LIBERATION MOVEMENT PROXIMITY TO THE LEADERSHIP OFTEN USED AS A LUSOPHONE MESSENGER. CHISSANO SAID THAT THEY HAD ACHIEVED AS MUCH IN LONDON IN ONE DAY AS TWO WEEKS IN THE U.S. THE BRITISH KNEW MACHEL'S BLEND OF FORMALITY AND INFORMALITY AND HOW TO WORK WITH THEM.

7. ONCE AGAIN I HAVE TO RECORD THE IMPORTANCE MACHEL AND CHISSANO ATTACH TO DIALOGUE WITH US. WITH SECURITY STILL SO DIFFICULT IT GIVES THEM REASSURANCE IN THEIR LONELY BALANCING ACT BETWEEN PRAGMATISM AND AFRICAN PACT FOLLOWING.

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