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FM MAPUTO  
TO PRIORITY FCO  
TELNO 598  
OF 200900Z NOVEMBER 87  
INFO PRIORITY HARARE, PRETORIA, WASHINGTON, BONN, NAIROBI  
INFO SAVING YAOUNDE

VISIT OF CHANCELLOR KOHL

SUMMARY

1. KOHL VISITED MAPUTO FROM 17-18 NOVEMBER AND HAD A THREE AND A HALF HOUR TALK WITH CHISSANO. VISIT CHARACTERISED AS A TURNING POINT IN BILATERAL RELATIONS. GERMANS IMPRESSED WITH MAPUTO. UNCLEAR WHETHER THERE WAS ANYTHING MORE TO VISIT THAN HAS SO FAR BEEN REVEALED.

DETAIL

2. MY GERMAN COLLEAGUE ON 19 NOVEMBER GAVE A COMMUNITY BRIEFING ON THE VISIT OF CHANCELLOR KOHL, WHO WAS HERE FOR 20 HOURS ON 17-18 NOVEMBER. THE CENTREPIECE OF THE VISIT WAS A THREE AND A HALF HOUR TALK BETWEEN CHANCELLOR KOHL AND PRESIDENT CHISSANO. ALTHOUGH THE LEADERS WERE OCCASIONALLY JOINED BY MOZAMBICAN MINISTERS FOR SPECIFIC TOPICS, MOST OF THE DISCUSSION WAS A DEUX WITH ONLY A GERMAN INTERPRETER AND THE CHANCELLOR'S FOREIGN POLICY ADVISER TELSCHICK, ACTING AS NOTE TAKER, PRESENT. AT THE BANQUET HELD AT THE PRESIDENTIAL PALACE ON 18 NOVEMBER IN HONOUR OF CHANCELLOR KOHL, BOTH SIDES EXPRESSED PLEASURE AT THIS VISIT, THE FIRST BY A HEAD OF GOVERNMENT OF A WESTERN COUNTRY. CHISSANO USED THE GERMAN WORD 'WENDE' TO CHARACTERISE THE TURNING POINT MARKED BY THE VISIT AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR RELATIONS WITH THE FRG. CHANCELLOR KOHL PUBLICLY EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT THIS WAS THE RIGHT TIME FOR DIALOGUE FROM BOTH MOZAMBIQUE'S AND, MORE GENERALLY, SOUTHERN AFRICA'S VIEW. MOZAMBIQUE HAD A KEY ROLE TO PLAY IN THE SOLUTION OF THE PROBLEMS OF THE AREA. GERMANY STOOD FOR PEACEFUL EVOLUTION RATHER THAN BLOODY REVOLUTION. HE CONDEMNED TERRORISM IN MOZAMBIQUE AND APARTHEID IN SOUTH AFRICA. AT THE PRESS CONFERENCE KOHL WAS PRESSED ON SANCTIONS. HE SAID IT WOULD BE WRONG TO APPLY THEM AND THAT THEY WOULD FAIL TO ACHIEVE POLITICAL OBJECTIVES OF EQUALITY AND PEACE IN THE REGION AND WOULD THREATEN THE EXISTENCE OF COUNTRIES IN THE AREA.

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3. CHANCELLOR KOHL WAS ACCOMPANIED BY THREE STATE SECRETARIES, TWO MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT, 55 JOURNALISTS AND 21 BUSINESSMEN. THE GERMAN AMBASSADOR TELLS US THAT ALL WERE IMPRESSED BY WHAT THEY SAW IN MOZAMBIQUE. THE CHANCELLOR IN PARTICULAR HAD BEEN STRUCK BY THE PRAGMATISM OF PRESIDENT CHISSANO, HIS LACK OF IDEOLOGICAL BIAS AND HIS WISH TO HAVE GOOD RELATIONS WITH GERMANY AND THE MEMBERS OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY.

4. DR NOLLE SAID THAT THE GERMAN DELEGATION BELIEVED THAT THE MOZAMBICANS WERE LOOKING FOR POLITICAL AND MORAL SUPPORT RATHER THAN ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE. NEVERTHELESS, THE CHANCELLOR ANNOUNCED A GIFT OF 4,000 TONNES OF RICE AND REFERRED TO THE 72M DM OF ECONOMIC AID GRANTED FOR 1987. IN MORE DETAILED COMMENTS ON THE VISIT, THE AMBASSADOR SAID THAT HIS DELEGATION HAD BEEN SOMEWHAT SURPRISED TO BE TOLD THAT MOZAMBIQUE WOULD LIKE ASSISTANCE WITH THE MOATIZE COAL MINES AND RAILWAY FROM BEIRA (THE FORMER ARE MEANT TO BE MANAGED BY THE EAST GERMANS AND THE LATTER, WHICH THE EAST GERMANS AND RUSSIANS WERE ORIGINALLY FINANCING, HAS NOW ATTRACTED SOME ASSISTANCE FROM THE ITALIANS), GRAIN STORAGE AND MEANS OF CLEANING MAPUTO.

5. ALTHOUGH THERE WAS TOUGH TALKING ABOUT THE INADEQUACIES OF ARRANGEMENTS FOR BUSINESS VISITORS AND DELAYS IN REPAYMENTS OF COMMERCIAL DEBTS, THE INDUSTRIALISTS (KRUPP, SIEMENS, GERMAN AFRICAN LINK AND OTHERS) HAD TAKEN NOTE OF MOZAMBICAN INVITATIONS FOR JOINT VENTURES AND THE TRANSFER OF ENTREPERENNIAL KNOWLEDGE. THEY HAD BEEN PROMISED AN INVESTMENT GUIDE IN GERMAN.

6. THE JOHANNESBURG CORRESPONDENT OF THE FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE TOLD ME THAT THE VISIT WAS REGARDED AS SOMETHING OF A DOMESTIC POLITICAL COUP FOR KOHL, WHO HAD OUTFLANKED THOSE NORMALLY CONCERNED WITH AFRICAN AFFAIRS (IT ALSO ENSURED THAT THE CHANCELLOR GOT HERE BEFORE JOSEF STRAUSS, WHO IT IS CLAIMED WILL BE VISITING MOZAMBIQUE SHORTLY). THE ACCOMPANYING PRESS CORPS (THOSE FROM GERMANY HAD BEEN JOINED BY JOURNALISTS FROM SOUTH AFRICA) HAD BEEN STRUCK BY WHAT THEY SAW IN MOZAMBIQUE, AND EXPERIENCED AFRICAN HANDS HAD PARTICULARLY REMARKED ON THE RESURGENCE OF ECONOMIC ACTIVITY.

7. THE LOCAL MEDIA GAVE WIDE COVERAGE TO THE VISIT (THE WHOLE FRONT PAGE OF NOTICIAS ON 19 NOVEMBER WAS GIVEN OVER TO IT). THE ONLY SOUR NOTE WAS THE COMMENT (CARRIED INTER ALIA BY RADIO MAPUTO) THAT KOHL SHOULD NOT HAVE REFERRED TO INITIAL PROBLEMS IN THE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC AND MOZAMBIQUE. THE EAST

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GERMANS HERE HAVE BEEN QUIET DURING THE VISIT BUT THIS MAY BE A MANIFESTATION OF THEIR CHAGRIN SINCE THEY STILL ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE INFLUENCE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND THE MEDIA.

COMMENT

8. THIS WAS A WELL ORGANISED VISIT. SO FAR AS I CAN JUDGE THE MOZAMBICANS, AND PARTICULARLY THE PRESIDENT, WENT OUT OF THEIR WAY TO BE AGREEABLE. (THE PRESIDENT HIMSELF GREETED KOHL AT THE AIRPORT ON HIS ARRIVAL IN THE EVENING, AS WELL AS BEING PRESENT AT THE MAIN FORMAL DEPARTURE CEREMONIES THE NEXT DAY.) CHISSANO SEEMED WELL CONTENT WITH THE VISIT AND TOLD A NUMBER OF US AT THE AIRPORT THAT IT HAD GONE WELL. WHAT KOHL TALKED ABOUT FOR THREE AND A HALF HOURS HAS REMAINED SOMETHING OF A MYSTERY. MY FRANKGURTER ALLGEMEINE CONTACT HINTED THAT KOHL AND HIS ADVISER WERE EXPLORING SOME SORT OF INITIATIVE. HE DID NOT EXPAND, BUT MAYBE EITHER YOU OR BONN CAN SHED SOME LIGHT ON THIS.

ALLAN

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*\* not to those who know him: himself!!*

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