

CONFIDENTIAL

HL

bcc CS

B

14 March 1983

B/K

Visit by President Machel

Thank you for your letter of 9 March.

The latter half of May will be a particularly busy time for the Prime Minister but she would be willing to offer talks at noon, followed by lunch, on Monday 16 May. She further agrees that a formal invitation should be issued to President Machel for a guest of government visit from 16-18 May.

JOHN COLES

Roger Bone Esq
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

CONFIDENTIAL



Prime Minister

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

Agree to invite President
of Mozambique and offer him talks
and lunch on Sunday, 16 May?

9 March 1983

A.J.C. 10/5

John [unclear]

If possible but
we have to prepare
for Willemsohn - and
several speakers
inc. Scotland

Visit by President Machel

In your letter of 6 October you informed me of the Prime Minister's agreement that an invitation should be issued to President Machel for a guest of government visit from 4 - 6 May.

Womens
Catherine
M

We have at last had a reply to this invitation. President Machel is unable, because of important party meetings, to accept on those dates, but would like to come in May and would be free any time after 10 May.

Given the long delay in replying to our invitation, the Mozambicans would have no grounds for complaint if it proved impossible to offer alternative dates in May. Nevertheless, we would recommend a favourable response if this is practicable.

President Machel has in recent months shown an increased readiness to strengthen relations with the West and to seek an accommodation with South Africa (the Komatipoort meeting). This has important implications for relations between South Africa and all its neighbours. He needs encouragement to help with hardliners within his party: a visit to this country would help the overall western effort, spearheaded by the US. It would also encourage President Machel to continue his co-operative stance over the Cuban withdrawal aspect of the Namibia negotiations. In addition, by giving us a further opportunity to demonstrate a friendly attitude towards the Front Line States, it should help to moderate their reaction over what they see as our support for the US stand on Cuban withdrawal.

/It is



It is possible that the recent trial of a British subject, Mr Dion Hamilton, on charges of collaborating with the NRM (Mozambique National Resistance) will provoke public and Parliamentary criticism of a visit by President Machel. However, there is some hope that we could obtain Mr Hamilton's deportation in connection with the visit: at least, a successful visit should improve the prospects.

On balance the Secretary of State recommends that we should try to offer President Machel a visit later in May. I understand that the only period when both the Prime Minister and The Queen might be available would be 16 - 18 May. I would be grateful for confirmation that the Prime Minister agrees that a formal invitation be issued to President Machel for a guest of government visit on those dates (it may be necessary to extend the visit overnight in either direction to fit in with air timetables). I would also welcome confirmation that Mrs Thatcher would be able to offer talks on 16 May, followed by lunch.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'R B Bone'.

(R B Bone)
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq
10 Downing Street

Mozambique . June 81 -
Visit of Pres Machel

3 MAR 1983

11 12 1 2 3 4
5 6 7 8 9