

SRWAHX

CONFIDENTIAL



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

4 September 1985

POSSIBLE VISIT BY PRESIDENT MACHEL OF MOZAMBIQUE

Thank you for your letter of 3 September about President Machel's wish to visit London and meet the Prime Minister.

The date in question, 27 September, is difficult for the Prime Minister and she will be away from No.10 for most of the day. She is however ready to make a particular effort to see President Machel and could offer him 45 minutes from 1030-1115. But I must emphasise that this is the only time which the Prime Minister can manage on that day; and she cannot offer a lunch or dinner.

It would also be helpful if it could be made clear to the Mozambiques at this stage that attendance at the meeting will be very limited. (When Machel came to see the Prime Minister at our Embassy in Moscow earlier this year, he arrived with at least 20 staff who attempted to take the main staircase by storm and had to be physically restrained.) Attendance at the meeting should be limited to the President plus two (and an interpreter). A maximum of two other staff - ie, ADCs - will be admitted to No.10 to wait for the President.

(C. D. POWELL)

Colin Budd, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office



Prime Minister

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

I know that you have a soft spot for Machel. But there is

really nothing more that we can offer him, following our last aid + military assistance package. And you are really very busy at the time in question.

Dear Charles,

You could just squeeze him in for 45 minutes on 27 September. But I'm really doubtful whether you need to this time.

POSSIBLE VISIT BY PRESIDENT MACHEL OF MOZAMBIQUE

President Machel will be travelling to the USA for a meeting with President Reagan on 19 September and an address to the UN General Assembly on 25 September. His office have told our Embassy that he would like to pay a short visit to London as part of the same trip. The Mozambicans first asked for 16/17 September. When we explained that the Prime Minister would then be away, they proposed 27 September. President Machel has sent his Minister of Economic Affairs, Sr Veloso, and one other senior aide to London to try to work out mutually convenient timing. They will be calling on Mr Rifkind at 1430 on 4 September.

Will see him?

Agree not to see him? CDP 3/4.

It is clear that President Machel attaches great importance to a call on the Prime Minister at this time. You will recall from the Prime Minister's conversation with him in Moscow in March his deep concern about the failure of the Nkomati Accord to bring an improvement in the security situation within Mozambique and his strong suspicion of South African motives. Since then the security situation has if anything worsened. It is important for our wider interests in the region to encourage him to persevere with the Nkomati process, and our recent offer of a package of military aid was made with that aim in mind. President Machel values his personal contact with the Prime Minister and would undoubtedly much appreciate agreement to his request for a meeting. We know that the US Administration would see such a call as useful both in bolstering President Machel's status and in countering criticism within certain circles in Washington of President Machel's visit there. A call on the Prime Minister would have the additional advantage to us of giving a high profile to our bilateral relations with a leading Front Line State prior to CHOGM and the expected controversy there over economic sanctions against South Africa.

There is however a complication. The guerrilla movement in Mozambique, Renamo, have seized a British technician, Mr Blakey. They have agreed to release him, so far without demanding conditions, but this may not have happened by the end of this month. There is a danger that they would see a

/visit



visit by President Machel as a provocation and delay the release and possibly impose difficult conditions. This could lead to public criticism here that we should have foreseen and avoided such a development. Nevertheless, the danger of retaliation is only limited: there is some evidence that Renamo aim to free the prisoners with minimum fuss.

Given this difficulty - in addition to the great pressure on the Prime Minister's diary - we would not have recommended taking the initiative in inviting President Machel. However, in view of the pressure from President Machel for a meeting with the Prime Minister, Sir Geoffrey Howe considers that we should run the limited risk of Renamo retaliation and agree to a visit by President Machel and a call on the Prime Minister. We realise that the Prime Minister's diary is very full in this period, but Sir Geoffrey Howe hopes that she will be able to offer a call on 27 September or a date soon thereafter.

Should the Prime Minister not feel able to agree to this, Mr Rifkind would need to explain the reasons carefully to President Machel's aides on 4 September. He would propose to say that the Prime Minister would have much liked to receive President Machel but unfortunately at this short notice her programme was completely full; she would wish to emphasise once more her strong support for President Machel in the difficult problems he was facing; and she hoped for another opportunity to meet him in the not too distant future. It would much help if Mr Rifkind were also authorised to say that the Prime Minister would be sending a personal message to President Machel (which we would envisage covering much the same ground: we would submit a draft).

It would be most helpful if you could let me know by lunch-time on 4 September whether the Prime Minister can agree to a call by President Machel and, if so, when.

Yours ever,

Colin Budd

(C R Budd)
Private Secretary

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