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PRIME MINISTER

VISIT OF PRESIDENT MACHEL

You may like to glance at the papers for this meeting tonight, since there will be little time tomorrow.

The attached flash telegram reports heavy explosions this afternoon in Maputo. This may induce Machel to go straight home from New York.

If he still comes the main subjects will be:-

- the activities of Renamo. There is recent evidence that the South Africans are still involved in supporting them (and <sup>Renamo</sup> they probably caused the explosions in Maputo). But we want to encourage Machel to stick to the Nkomati Accord. And you can tell him that you took up his complaints about external support for Renamo with President Banda and with the South Africans.
- Sanctions against South Africa. He is coming as the emissary of the Front Line States. But actually he has little appetite for sanctions, from which Mozambique would suffer badly. You will want to explain your reasons for opposing sanctions.

Bull points to mention are our decision to give Mozambique military training through BMATT in Zimbabwe; and the additional food aid of £1.3 million we are giving.

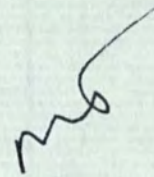
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You might show knowledge of the fact that Mrs. Machel, who doubles as Minister of Education, is staying on for an official visit until 5 October.

C.D.P.



(C.D. Powell)  
25 September, 1985

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→ cc Mr Powell (No 10)

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- H/S AF)  
J. H/S (PUS)  
H/NEWS)  
PS  
PS/R. L. L. (ind)  
R. FERGUSON  
~~MA JONES~~

**FLASH**

ADVANCE COPY **XS**

RESTRICTED  
FM MAPUTO  
TO FLASH FCO  
TELNO 447  
OF 251555Z SEPTEMBER  
INFO IMMEDIATE PRETORIA, HARARE, MBABANE  
INFO ROUTINE DAR ES SALAAM, LILONGWE, WASHINGTON, UKMIS NEW YORK.

MAPUTO: SECURITY SITUATION.

1. HEAVY EXPLOSIONS HAVE SHAKEN MAPUTO SINCE MID AFTERNOON (1545) WITH SMOKE AT AIRPORT PERIMETER. FROM MY PERSONAL RECONNAISSANCE IT APPEARS THAT MUNITIONS STORE AT NORTH OF AIRPORT 6 KMS FROM TERMINAL APPEARS TO HAVE GONE UP, FORCE OF EXPLOSIONS HAVE BLOWN MANY WINDOWS IN CENTRE AND ELSEWHERE. SOME ROCKETS AND SHELLS HAVE FALLEN IN CITY. BUT IT IS NOT ENTIRELY CLEAR YET WHETHER THESE WERE STRAYS FROM EXPLOSIONS OR RENAMOS OWN EXPLOSIONS. EXPLOSIONS ARE NOW DIMINISHING.
2. WE HAVE TWO HOURS OF DAYLIGHT. DURING MY RECCE NEAR AUPPORT I HEARD NO SMALL ARMS FIRE BUT IT WOULD HAVE BEEN MASKED BY THE HEAVY EXPLOSIONS. THERE WAS NO EVIDENCE THEN OF MILITARY SEALING OFF ROADS ENTRANCES TO TOWN BUT MANY HUNDREDS OF PEOPLE FROM THE REED CITY WERE CROSSING INTO THE MAIN TOWN. SOME SEALING OF ROADS HAS NOW BEEN DONE AND RADIO STATION NEXT TO EMBASSY IS HEAVILY GUARDED NOW AND ACCESS LIMITED. THE GUARDS AT MAIN BUILDINGS WERE ON ALERT BUT NOT UNDER OBVIOUS FRESH COMMAND. AIRPORT BUILDINGS AND AIRCRAFT ARE UNSAFE.
3. EMBASSY STAFF ARE SAFE AND GROUPED AT RESIDENCE OR WITH FRIENDS IN NEIGHBOURHOOD RATHER THAN CHANCERY, BECAUSE RADIO STATION WOULD BE MAIN TARGET OF ANY ATTACK.
4. TELEPHONES AND TELEX ARE STILL WORKING. WE ARE WORKING THROUGH CONTACT WITH COMMUNITY ALL WELL. QUALITAIR AT AIRPORT ALL SAFE AND HAVE COME INTO TOWN.
5. TODAY IS ARMY DAY CELEBRATING 21 YEARS OF FIRST ATTACK OF FRELIMO. MACHEL IS SPEAKING THIS AFTERNOON IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY. SABOTAGE IS WELL TIMED. IF IT IS MORE THAN A SALLY WE SHALL KNOW BY MORNING IF RENAMO SHOULD USE COVER OF NIGHT TO COME IN TO CITY. THE ARMY HAS FURTHER MOVED SINCE ABOVE INTO POSITION TO GUARD KEY AREAS AND TARGETS. RADIO MOZAMBIQUE HAS BROADCAST A STATEMENT CONFIRMING DESTRUCTION OF MUNITIONS DUMP, UPGING POPULATION TO REMAIN INDOORS AND REASSURING POPULACE THAT SITUATION IS UNDER CONTROL.

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