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19

WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM

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PRT: PRESIDENT

<PREC? IMMEDIATE <CLAS? SECRET <DTG? 131630Z MAY 87

FM CABINET OFFICE LONDON

TO THE WHITE HOUSE

~~SECRET~~ VIA CABINET OFFICE CHANNELS

QOOO

FOR FRANK CARLUCCI FROM CHARLES POWELL.

I SHOULD BE GRATEFUL IF YOU WOULD PASS THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE
FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO PRESIDENT REAGAN, ABOUT MOZAMBIQUE.

DEAR RON,

WE HAD A BRIEF WORD AT OUR CAMP DAVID MEETING LAST NOVEMBER ABOUT MOZAMBIQUE. WE AGREED THAT WE SHOULD RE-ASSESS THE PROSPECTS FOLLOWING PRESIDENT MACHELS DEATH, AND HOW WE SHOULD RESPOND TO THE NEW SITUATION.

WE HAVE JUST HAD PRESIDENT CHISSANO ON A VISIT HERE. ON THE WHOLE, HE MADE A GOOD IMPRESSION. THE SCALE OF THE PROBLEMS FACING MOZAMBIQUE IS DAUNTING. BUT HIS APPROACH TO THEM SEEMS REASONABLY SENSIBLE AND PRAGMATIC. HE IS APPARENTLY CLOSE TO AGREEMENT WITH THE IMF ON A RECOVERY PROGRAMME. HE UNDERSTANDS THE NEED FOR A PEACEFUL SOLUTION IN SOUTH AFRICA THROUGH DIALOGUE BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND REPRESENTATIVES OF ALL THE MAIN BLACK GROUPS. HE ACKNOWLEDGES THAT SANCTIONS DO NOT MAKE SENSE SO FAR AS THE FRONT LINE STATES ARE CONCERNED.

HE REGARDS RENAMO AS A TERRORIST ORGANISATION DEDICATED TO SYSTEMATIC DESTRUCTION OF MOZAMBIQUES ECONOMIC INFRASTRUCTURE. HE BELIEVES THAT SOUTH AFRICA REMAINS THEIR PRINCIPAL SUPPORT. HE IS NOT PREPARED TO NEGOTIATE POWERSHARING WITH THEM, ALTHOUGH HE IS READY TO ALLOW INDIVIDUALS TO TAKE PART IN MOZAMBIQUES POLITICAL LIFE IF THEY GIVE UP THEIR SUPPORT OF RENAMO.

CHISSANO WILL CONTINUE TO GET WHAT HELP HE CAN FROM THE SOVIET UNION AND TO RECEIVE SOVIET ADVISERS. BUT I DID NOT GET THE IMPRESSION THAT HE REGARDED MARXISM AS RELEVANT TO SOLVING

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NLRR M16986 #226386

BY RW NARA DATE 10/24/19

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MOZAMBIQUES PROBLEMS. RATHER HE IS ANXIOUS TO KEEP AND INCREASE HIS LINKS WITH THE WEST AND IS GENUINELY GRATEFUL FOR THE HELP HE IS RECEIVING.

I HAVE COME TO THE CONCLUSION THAT WE SHOULD HELP CHISSANO. HE IS NOT A MACHEL. BUT I THINK THAT, OVER TIME, HE DOES OFFER US AND OPPORTUNITY TO ROLL BACK SOVIET INFLUENCE AND HE IS A MODERATING FORCE ON THE FRONT LINE STATES. I HAVE THEREFORE AGREED TO AN INCREASE IN OUR AID PROGRAMME AND A VERY MODEST DEVELOPMENT OF OUR MILITARY TRAINING, INCLUDING THE APPOINTMENT OF A DEFENCE ATTACHE IN MAPUTO TO SEE THAT IT IS USED TO BEST ADVANTAGE.

WHILE YOU WILL WANT TO MAKE YOUR OWN ASSESSMENT, I RATHER HOPE THAT YOU WILL SHARE MY CONCLUSION AND CONSIDER SOME INCREASE IN THE PRESENT LEVEL OF U.S. SUPPORT FOR CHISSANO AND HIS GOVERNMENT.

WARM REGARDS,
MARGARET

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