



General Assembly Security Council

Distr.
GENERALA/43/965 ✓
S/20326
14 December 1988

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Forty-third session
Agenda item 873 and 136
COMPREHENSIVE SYSTEM OF INTERNATIONAL
PEACE AND SECURITY
DEVELOPMENT AND STRENGTHENING OF
GOOD-NEIGHBOURLINESS BETWEEN STATES

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-third year

Letter dated 13 December 1988 from the Permanent Representative
of South Africa to the United Nations addressed to the
Secretary-General

I have the honour to draw attention to a note verbale dated 23 November 1988, which the Permanent Representative of Mozambique to the United Nations addressed to you regarding an incident that occurred on 28 July 1988 on the joint border between South Africa and Mozambique (A/43/862-8/20293). In this communication it is alleged that "South African soldiers • attacked Mozambican forces in Maputo province" and that "one of their soldiers was killed and some matériel captured". According to this communication "the South African • authorities asked Mozambique to return the body of the dead soldier and the captured matériel".

The South African authorities to whose attention I have drawn the communication have advised that it is selective and incorrect in its presentation and does not provide the full and factual background to this incident. They have summarized the salient features as follows:

On the night of 28 July 1988, a South African Defence Force (SADF) patrol was engaged in patrolling the South African side of the border area with Mozambique. At that time and about 30 kilometres east of Musi a Frelimo patrol made contact with a Renamo group in the border area. Shots were exchanged between the Frelimo and Renamo contingents and the SADF patrol, not wishing to become involved and complicate matters, decided to vacate the area mentioned, which is adjacent to the border with Mozambique.

Unfortunately, one South African soldier was killed in the ongoing cross-fire between the Frelimo and Renamo contingents although the SADF patrol had remained on South African territory throughout.

The Frelimo patrol, under the impression that it was still dealing with Renamo, took possession of some abandoned SADF equipment on South African territory by crossing the border into South Africa.

When subsequently these facts became known, a Frelimo spokesman apologized for this action which had led to the death of a South African soldier and undertook to return all the equipment confiscated by them on the South African side of the border.

This incident was raised for the first time in the meeting of the Joint South Africa/Mozambique Security Commission (JSC), which was held in Maputo on 16 November 1988 under the chairmanship of General T. Dai, Chief of the Mozambique Army. A report on the incident was submitted to the JSC at the next scheduled meeting, which took place on 12 December 1988. It indicated that South African troops were on South African territory when they were fired on from within the borders of Mozambique, that they were never in Maputo Province of Mozambique and that the 10081 Mozambique Field Commanders apologized for the incident.

The agreed procedure adopted in good faith between South Africa and Mozambique is that the primary forum for addressing incidents is the JSC, established in terms of the Nkomati Accord. The South African authorities are unable to understand, therefore, why the Permanent Representative of the People's Republic of Mozambique should choose a forum which is not provided for in the Nkomati Agreement to publicise an incident which took place four months earlier and which the Joint Security Commission was in the process of investigating. The statement of the Permanent Representative displays either an ignorance of the procedures and arrangements between the two countries or a wilful disregard thereof which has entailed a breach of the confidentiality of the proceedings of the JSC.

You will in the circumstances appreciate the relevancy of the joint press communiqué released by the Joint Security Commission after its meeting on 16 November 1988. I have the honour to enclose a copy of the text together with a list of recent developments which give a clear indication of South Africa's commitments to peaceful development in Mozambique (see annex).

Since the Permanent Representative of Mozambique requested circulation of his note verbale of 23 November 1988 as an official document of the United Nations, I have the honour to also request circulation of this letter and its annex as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 73 and 136, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Jeremy B. SHEARER
Ambassador and
Permanent Representative

ANNEX

Joint press communiqué: Maputo, 13 November 1966

The Joint Security Commission between the People's Republic of Mozambique and the Republic of South Africa, established in terms of the Nkomati Accord, met in the City of Maputo under the Chairmanship of His Excellency Lieutenant-General Tobias Dal, Commandant of the Army in the Mozambican Armed Forces/FPLM. The South African delegation was led by Lieutenant-General Andreas Jacobus Liebenberg, Head of the South African Army.

This meeting of the Commission analysed matters relating to compliance with the letter and spirit of the Accord of Nkomati, as well as the implementation of the decisions of the Summit of Bongo taken in this field by President Joaquim Chissano and State President P.W. Botha.

The Commission noted with profound concern the continuation of acts of terror in Mozambique and determined to undertake efforts for the elimination thereof.

Both parties agreed that there were elements at work trying to undermine Mozambique and South Africa's efforts to attain peace and stability and that both sides would work together to counteract these elements.

**List of recent developments in relations between
South Africa and Mozambique**

The establishment of a Joint Co-operation and Development Commission (JDC) was approved by President P. W. Botha of South Africa and President Joaquim Chissano of Mozambique during their historic meeting at Songo on 12 September 1966. On the South African side the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Wt. J. Meiring, will act as co-chairman.

The ongoing arrangements for the eventual flow of electricity from the Cahora Bassa dam.

The Joint Security Commission has been revived after three years of inactivity.

The upgrading of Maputo harbour has been given added impetus. The original South African loan of R 3 million for the preparatory phase of SAFTO's master plan for the port has been augmented with a further loan of R 3 million with the agreement being signed in Maputo on 20 October 1966.

A port steering committee meets monthly, alternately in Maputo and Johannesburg, to control the allocation of funds from the above-mentioned loan for specific work in the Maputo port.

A delegation from the Mozambican railway⁸ will soon visit South Africa to promote the use of the Maputo port by South African exporters.

Nkomati Corridor: Plans have been drawn up for the construction of a road from Komatipoort on the South African side of the border to Maputo by South African and Mozambican engineers.

The South African Minister of Transport Affairs has been invited by the Mozambican Minister of Transport to visit Maputo in the near future.

South Africa and Mozambique recently renewed the joint fishing agreement for a further three years.

In the field of health care, bilateral discussions have taken place and the Mozambican Minister of Health has accepted an invitation for a Mozambican health delegation to visit South Africa. A patient programme for Mozambique has been approved and the first Mozambican citizen to benefit by these arrangements was the former Minister of Health, Dr. Fernando Van.

The South African geological survey is assisting the Mozambique mineral bureau with surveys.

The new building of the South African trade mission was inaugurated by South African Foreign Minister, R.F. Botha, on 26 October 1966. This event was attended by two Mozambican ministers and two deputy ministers. On the same day Ministers Botha and Du Plessis both laid wreaths at the Louis Triahardt Memorial commemorating the 160th anniversary of the death of the Voortrekker leader. The ceremony was also attended by representatives of the Mozambican Government.

The Mozambican Minister of Labour is to visit South Africa soon for talks with the South African Minister of Manpower. They will visit labour training centres in Durban and Cape Town preparatory to the establishment of similar centres in Mozambique with assistance from the South African Government.

- Officials of the Mozambican nature conservation authorities recently participated in a seminar offered by the Endangered Wildlife Trust in Johannesburg.
- Preparations are being made for a study of development possibilities for Basaruto Island.
- The citrus cooling facilities in the Maputo port, which were erected with South African finance before Nkomati, will be upgraded soon with further financing from South Africa.
- A donation of chlorine for water purification in Maputo has been arranged with South African Government finance.

SAPPI is progressing with a feasibility study for a forestry project in southern Mozambique. The study is financed from South African sources.

South African Breweries has reopened a match factory which they managed before Mozambican independence. They are also interested in re-opening the brewery industry in Mozambique.

On security matters, daily meetings between South African and Mozambican defence force representatives have been ongoing at the Nkomati Operational Centre. In addition, General Fondo, head of the Mozambican border guards, and General Bisschoff of the SADF have met six times since February 1988.

South Africa and Mozambique are establishing informal border crossing points to facilitate family and other visits. In time training and rudimentary health facilities will be established at these points.