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RECORD OF A DISCUSSION BETWEEN THE PRIME MINISTER AND THE PRESIDENT
OF MOZAMBIQUE AT 1230 HOURS ON THURSDAY 21 OCTOBER 1983 AT
10 DOWNING STREET

Present:

Prime Minister	President
Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary	Major-General Chissano (Foreign Minister)
Sir John Leahy	Lt. General Guebuza (Interior)
Mr. Stewart	Major-General Veloso (Economic Affairs)
Mr. Coles	Mr. Ratilal (Bank Governor)
	Colonel Honwana (Special Adviser)

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The Prime Minister said that she wished to welcome President Machel and his delegation formally to London. As she had just told the President in their tête-à-tête conversation, Britain was most grateful for the role which he had played in bringing Zimbabwe to independence. He had exerted influence over Mr. Nkomo and Mr. Mugabe at a critical time. There had been close contact between the United Kingdom and Mozambique as a result of the Zimbabwe experience. We would like that close contact to continue.

The future of Southern Africa was of vital importance to the world as a whole. We should all seek to influence that future positively. Britain was passionately concerned for freedom and justice for all peoples.

She believed that the two delegations had discussed bilateral issues separately and she hoped that satisfactory conclusions had been reached.

President Machel thanked the Prime Minister for her welcome. It was true that Mozambique had helped in a modest way to produce a solution in Zimbabwe but he also paid tribute to the Prime Minister's own courage. The decisive step had been Britain's assumption of responsibility for a solution at the Lusaka Conference.

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The Prime Minister said that she would be interested to hear the President's views on the situation in Mozambique and in Southern Africa more widely.

President Machel said that the first need was a solution to the problem of Namibia. This was an international question. It concerned basically the desire of a people for independence. No price should be paid for independence. It could not be given on conditions. All the other former German colonies in Africa were now independent. Namibia was still occupied. It was not in the interests of the United Kingdom or the United States nor of Africa that Namibia should remain occupied.

Angola had obtained its independence under very difficult conditions. South Africa had invaded Angola at the invitation of UNITA. South Africa now wished to maintain UNITA in Namibia so that it could continue to destabilise Angola. Furthermore, South Africa was hoping that there would be a UNITA government in Namibia which would remain dependent on South Africa even after independence. If South Africa were sure that a puppet government could be retained in Namibia, it would accept Resolution 435. But because it did not have that certainty it was seeking a pretext to delay the implementation of the Resolution.

South Africa did not have a border with Angola. So it should not be preoccupied with the Cuban presence there which was a recent problem.

The United States had still not recognised the Government in Luanda and was hoping that UNITA would participate in a government of national unity. Part of Angola's territory had been invaded but the world seemed to accept their situation as normal. South Africa wished to keep a strong UNITA presence in Angola so that if SWAPO won elections in Namibia South Africa would still be well placed to influence the situation there. The basic problem was the South African desire for hegemony. It was not an East/West /problem.

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problem. The Contact Group should be more solid and more effective in seeking the implementation of Resolution 435.

Mozambique had had a long meeting with the United States last December. This had been a new development. During the Carter Administration there had been reasonable relations but with the election of President Reagan relations had deteriorated. It was Reagan who had defined South Africa as an unconditional ally of the United States. Africans asked "ally against whom?".

In Mozambique, there had been an anti-colonial war. The Portuguese had brought more than 100,000 Mozambicans into the fighting, there had been terrible massacres and much use of secret police who had acted like the Gestapo. When Mozambique had obtained its independence many of these people had gone to Rhodesia. When Mozambique had applied sanctions, Smith had then used these people to destabilise Mozambique. Later many of them moved to South Africa which now used them to attack Mozambique.

The aim of South Africa was to destroy the Southern African Development Co-ordination Conference and turn all neighbouring countries into eternal clients of South Africa's transport interests. Mozambique lost \$75 million a year because of South African behaviour. When Portugal had ruled Mozambique it had sent workers to South Africa in return for gold at a specially low price. But when Mozambique had imposed sanctions, it had found that it could only obtain gold at the international price.

Similarly, Mozambique used to send about 80,000 labourers to Zimbabwe to work on the plantations and in the mines. That had also stopped when sanctions had been applied.

When he saw Western comments about the bankruptcy of Mozambique he was surprised that the economic situation in his country was not attributed to South African destabilisation.

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What could be done? The first need was for political and diplomatic action, especially by the United States, the United Kingdom, Germany and France. Secondly, economic action. He did not ask that we should withdraw investment from South Africa but investment by the West in countries such as Mozambique, Angola, Botswana, Zambia and Malawi was a form of economic liberation.

The Prime Minister said that she was grateful for President Machel's cogent and candid explanations. These helped us to understand his thinking.

On a specific point, she hoped that Mozambique would protect those British technicians who would work on the Zimbabwe/Maputo railway.

President Machel said that he wished to thank the Prime Minister for retrospective terms adjustment. He also wished to invite her to visit Mozambique. The Prime Minister said that she accepted the invitation and hoped to take it up at a mutually convenient time. Conversation could continue over lunch.

A joint press release was agreed and the discussion ended at 1305.

A.J.C.

20 October 1983

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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

20 October 1983

Visit of President Machel of Mozambique

You should know that during lunch here today the Prime Minister raised with the President of Mozambique the case of Mr. Dion Hamilton. President Machel noted the Prime Minister's concern but made no specific undertaking.

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R.B. Bone, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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