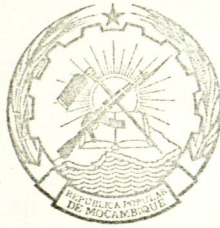


SPS
Subject copy filed on
Mozambique June 1982
sent to Mrs Thatcher



PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T/23AA/82

REPÚBLICA POPULAR DE MOÇAMBIQUE
PRESIDÊNCIA DA REPÚBLICA
GABINETE

Maputo, 8th, June, 1982

Dear Madam,

I have the pleasure of sending you this message through Mr. Fernando Honwana, my Special Assistant, to explain why we were forced to postpone our official visit to the United Kingdom.

Our visit to the United Kingdom would have provided an excellent opportunity to thank you personally for the crucial role your Government has been playing in the context of Southern Africa. This would have also been the occasion to express our satisfaction with the United Kingdom's growing cooperation with the People's

The Rt. Honourable
MARGARET THATCHER
Prime Minister
United Kingdom

2.

Republic of Mozambique.

We are particularly aware of the fact that cooperation between our countries has reached a level which requires contact at the highest level with a view to consolidating and developing our relations on the basis of mutual advantage for both our countries and peoples.

Unfortunately, however, owing to reasons which we have already conveyed to your Embassy in Maputo, the leadership of Frelimo Party and the Standing Commission of the People's Assembly felt that the Head of State's absence from the country at this moment would not be opportune.

In effect the racist South African regime's aggression against our country has been escalating, through the use of armed bandits who have been committing crimes and atrocities against nationals and foreigners, carrying out sabotage against economically strategic targets and cutting off communications with the neighbouring countries, particularly with Zimbabwe.

3.

This situation has already caused heavy human and material losses, it further complicates our difficult economic situation and it might seriously delay the implementation of our economic and social development programmes for the present decade, some of which we are undertaking with the United Kingdom's cooperation.

We have with us material evidence of the South African regime's direct involvement in these operations by recruiting, financing, training, arming and supplying the armed bandits.

My Special Assistant, Mr. Honwana has been instructed to brief you fully on the present situation.

It is with the greatest pleasure that we reaffirm our wish to visit the United Kingdom at a date to be fixed later.

4.

I should like to renew to you our best wishes of
good health, long life and good work.

Highest consideration,

MARESHAL SAMORA MOISÉS MACHEL
President of the People's Republic
of Mozambique