

# THE ANC AND FRELIMO

There were many sharp criticism of Mozambique and charges of selling out the ANC leveled by some against Mozambique immediately following the signing the Nkomati Accord. What information is available suggests that in the early meetings heading up to the accord the South Africans wanted Mozambique to end all support and encouragement to the ANC. In the end, Mozambique prevailed and vowed to continue its moral, political and diplomatic support of the ANC and its ideals. Missing is the word 'militarily' which is now restricted under the terms of the Nkomati Accord. Both the ANC and Mozambique always insisted that there were no military training bases for the ANC inside Mozambique. The reason for the lack of such bases has more to do with the stage of the struggle and Mozambique's ability to provide bases than South Africa's desire to not have them there.

But some changes were predictable as the result of an accord which guarantees each signer that the other country will not be used to launch attacks against the other. For the ANC it has meant that

while the ANC office remains in Maputo along with some ANC representatives, other ANC members would have been transferred to U.N. Refugee centers within Mozambique. Several hundred ANC members left for other countries instead.

But has the Nkomati Accord sparked a rift in a relationship dating back several decades? The relationship between FRELIMO and ANC goes back to the time that FRELIMO was founded. At Samora Machel's urging, the ANC of South Africa was recognized as the South African liberation movement which should be supported by the OAU and the Front Line States.

In an interview done on Mozambican Radio during a trip to Maputo in May, a leader of the African National Congress Thabo Mbeki stated that "It is perfectly clear that the South African regime would like Mozambique and the ANC to quarrel" because, he said, it would be in the interests of the South African authorities if they did. "That is why," he continued, "they are cooking up stories like the one that the ANC is cooperating with the MNR—an outrageous thing to

say."

Speaking of the declaration which came out of the last Front Line States meeting in Arusha which stressed the commitment of all its members to the destruction of colonialism in Namibia and the apartheid state in South Africa and the commitment to the Liberation of both peoples Mbeki stated that: "These common positions have overtaken whatever problems, differences or misunderstandings might have arisen" as a result of the agreements reached by the Angolan and Mozambican governments with South Africa.

More recently in Maputo, the ANC representative Jacob Nzuma, in an interview with Allen Issacman commenting on the improved level of understanding between FRELIMO and the ANC commented, "We share a common long-term objective and common enemy."

"If we allow emotions and anger to govern our thinking we are playing into the hands of the Boers. We (the ANC and FRELIMO) need to work together in order to liberate ourselves."