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Samora Machel Speaks At Nkomati

Below we reprint the text of Mozambican President Samora Machel's speech at the signing of the Nkomati Accord on March 16, 1984.

The signing of the Agreement of Non Aggression and Good Neighbourliness is a high point in the history of relations between our two states and a high point in the history of our region.

The principles we have enshrined in the Accord of Nkomati are universally valid ones that govern relations between sovereign states regardless of their political, economic and social systems. They are principles that open new perspectives for the relationship between our states, in so far as they guarantee a solid and lasting peace between the two neighbouring countries. They are principles that establish a new situation in our region, a situation of peace and good neighbourliness.

The Accord of Nkomati is a unique document among the states of our region. The need for it arose not so much from the differences between us, but above all from the process of confrontation that developed and created the awareness that this was not the road that would best serve the in-

terests of our two countries.

We have undertaken here a solemn commitment not to launch aggressive actions of any sort against one another, and we have created conditions for the establishment, with honour and dignity, of a new phase of stability and security on our common borders.

We do not want Southern Africa, and our two countries in particular, to be the theatre for a generalised conflict. That is why we have enshrined in the Accord of Nkomati the principle that our states will not be used by any other state or group of states to jeopardise the sovereignty, territorial integrity or independence of our countries.

We are thus laying the foundation for a definitive break of the cycle of violence that has been established in this region of the continent. A violence that was above all the result of the burdensome legacies we carry with us. A violence that began some centuries ago, when the dignity and personality of African peoples were trampled on by the aggression, domination and exploitation of European colonialism. Africa was ravaged by the brutality of slave wars and colonial conquest, which brought division, humiliation, poverty and destruction to the peoples of the continent.

We are a continent of survivors. We survived slavery, we

survived wars of conquest and we survived the brutality of repression when we wanted to become masters of our own destinies.

For that reason we are fully cognisant of the value of peace and of the need to reject the legacies that divide us.

We thus assume, before the world and before history, responsibility for guaranteeing the perpetuity of this Agreement and eliminating the root causes of violence, war and confrontation.

The differences between our political, economic and social concepts are great and even antagonistic.

We recognised these differences honourably on the hard and difficult road of frank and open talks that led us to this Agreement. We shall continue to be aware of the remaining contradictions but we recognise that we are indissolubly linked by geography and by proximity.

Peaceful coexistence, mutual respect, and relations of good neighbourliness are the only rational alternative for our future to be free of the spectre of violence and destruction.

The People's Republic of Mozambique cherishes peace as the most precious possession of mankind, the deepest aspiration of all peoples. Peace and coexistence are written into our Constitution. Based on our socialist policy of peace we have proposed, since the first meeting between our governments on 17 December 1982, that we should agree, formally or informally, to let peace and coexistence prevail between our states.

Peace is when there is respect between states for sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity.

Peace is when there is harmony, and physical, material, spiritual and social tranquility.

Peace is when the life, liberty, equality and dignity of man is respected without any discrimination.

Peace generates the conditions of progress, economic development and social wellbeing.

After a long period of armed conflict, hopes of peace are emerging. They must be converted into reality. They must be fertilised and enriched so that they may blossom and grow.

The prospect of peace opens possibilities for developing the vast resources in which our region abounds. These resources must as a matter of priority be exploited for the benefit of the people, while always safeguarding the national interests of each state.

Economic relations between our states must develop in a healthy and correct manner.

We neither can nor should ignore the fact that our relations have a historic tradition, which enhanced the geographical contiguity of the two countries.

But we must also recognise that relations of economic dependence are not conducive to stability and harmonious progress. For this reason our state rejects any type of relationship that might in any way limit its independence or make it economically dependent on another country.

In the economic sphere let us find ways of developing resources, infrastructures, and circumstances which, being part of the experience of our relations, are likely to bring reciprocal advantages and benefits on the basis of equality.

It is within this context that the Agreement of Non Aggression and Good Neighbourliness has an important role

to play, as there can be no development without peace and tranquility.

We have established relations of cooperation with the states of Southern Africa in the framework of SADCC.

As we have already had occasion to state, SADCC was not created against South Africa. Its central objective is to eliminate hunger, wretchedness and illiteracy and to improve the standard of living of the peoples of the region. Its member states refuse economic dependence on South Africa as on any other country.

These objectives are solemnly proclaimed in the Lusaka Declaration which created SADCC, and we would like to reaffirm once again our total fidelity to these principles.

Our states have been able to map out the path of coexistence. They have been able to discuss between themselves. Between themselves they have been able to define their interests and objectives. Many have been surprised at the speed with which we found answers, and by our ability to do so without external interference.

We, the Mozambican people, want to develop friendly relations with the South African people. None of us, Mozambicans or South Africans, have another country. We are not foreigners to our continent or countries.

We have to live together on a basis of mutual respect, freedom, equality and justice. These are fundamental principles of our state, principles that are the very essence of our concept of a free and democratic society. They are principles with which we remain consistent and to which we are intransigently loyal.

Our objective is that our region should assert itself as a model of peace. We do not want Southern Africa or our continent to be the basis for any armed conflicts. In particular we do not want to be the ones to trigger off a confrontation on a worldwide scale.

The liberation struggle of the African peoples was a struggle to achieve peace.

The whole of Africa is continuing the struggle to become a zone of peace, and for her oceans to be thoroughfares of peace, unity, friendship and cooperation between peoples. The whole of Africa is fighting to avert the horrors of a nuclear holocaust from the continent.

The peoples of Africa have always struggled to eliminate the motive causes of conflicts, tension and wars. They have always struggled to eradicate foreign domination and exploitation, and to build progress, prosperity and happiness in peace.

In this struggle to affirm the dignity and personality of the African man the Organisation of African Unity was and continues to be an important instrument for materialising the legitimate aspirations of the people of our continent.

We cannot lose this opportunity to pay our tribute to those who founded and inspired the OAU. More than twenty years ago a galaxy of illustrious African leaders had the lucidity, the historical vision and the courage to give form to the aspiration of unity so that the struggle of the African people for the liberation of our continent could continue.

In this great epic, the liberation of Africa, many were the heroes who sacrificed their lives for the noble cause. It is with deep emotion that at this moment we evoke their memories. They will remain immortalised with affection and respect in the history of Africa.

We would like to emphasise the decisive role of the

leaders of the Front Line States with which we have been united for a long time in the cause of the liberation of our continent and in the search for peace and progress, for justice and equality, in this region of Africa.

We salute Mwalimu Julius Kambarage Nyerere and Doctor Kenneth David Kaunda, those distinguished figures who transformed their peoples into firm and unwavering allies in the liberation of the Mozambican people. This respectful tribute to the peoples of Tanzania and Zambia is extensive to all peoples who made our struggle for peace and freedom their own.

The Agreement we have concluded is a significant contribution towards these noble objectives. Furthermore it enables the region to concentrate its efforts on the prime struggle of the continent and humanity—the struggle against hunger, disease, ignorance, poverty and underdevelopment.

Let Africa emerge as a region of progress where reason prevails over hate and prejudice and where the efforts of Man are concentrated on the struggle for development and wellbeing.

Peace, security, stability and progress have always been objectives of the Mozambican people's struggle.

In 1964 our people launched the armed struggle against Portuguese colonialism to win national independence and eliminate one of the factors that disturbed peace in our

region. In 1974, ten years later, that objective was attained. Another ten years have elapsed, and we are here to establish the basis for a climate of good neighbourliness and peace to prevail between two states of the Southern region of our continent.

The effort to achieve peace required determination, a correct historical perspective and steadfastness. The moment has come when for us, what counts for more than legal texts and formulations is the given word, the sense of commitment and good faith.

The Government of the People's Republic of Mozambique will keep its word both in letter and in spirit.

We have always fought for peace, equality and progress proclaiming FRELIMO's watchword, THE STRUGGLE CONTINUES!

Today the struggle continues for equality, for democracy, for justice so that on our continent we should all be equal.

Today, for peace, stability, good neighbourliness and progress,

A LUTA CONTINUA

Thank you very much