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Lauretta  
Copy to Mr Jaquet  
and back to me please  
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Tuynhuys  
Kaapstad

27 September 1988 Tuynhuys  
Cape Town

Dear Mr President

Thank you for your letter of 20 September 1988 delivered by Minister Jacinto Veloso in Pretoria on that date as well as a number of ideas which His Excellency the President of Angola requested you to convey to me.

I agree with you that the meeting which we had at Songo was encouraging and we should move ahead on the proposals exchanged on that day. My Cabinet has approved, in principle, the tripartite agreement on revitalising the Cahora Bassa scheme and I trust that the steps envisaged to restore the powerline could be taken as soon as possible.

In regard to the composition of the Joint Security Commission, the South African Government agrees that an officer of a similar rank and position be appointed as the head of the South African delegation. I further propose that the Joint Security Commission be made responsible for security matters with the designated task to investigate alleged violations of the security provisions of the Nkomati Accord on both sides of the border. In addition I would suggest that we should entrust an Expert Commission on Cooperation and Development as proposed by you, at Songo, with all the functions and tasks associated with envisaged closer economic cooperation.

The head of the South African component of this Commission will be the Deputy-Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr J W R

Meiring. When circumstances require, the Minister of Foreign Affairs himself will lead the South African delegation. The South African and Mozambican components of this Commission should be able to coopt and include any experts in any of the fields of work which it might be considered desirable to undertake.

The Minister of Manpower, Public Works and Land Affairs, Mr P T C du Plessis, has informed me that he is awaiting a delegation from Mozambique to visit one or two training centres of his Department, with a view to investigating the possible establishment of similar centres in Maputo.

I would like to thank you again for the positive attitude which you displayed at Songo and for the excellent hospitality which the South African delegation received. I look forward to a visit by you to South Africa at a mutually convenient date, hopefully, in the near future.

As you know I asked Minister Veloso during his visit to South Africa last week whether you would convey a message from me to President Dos Santos in response to his ideas conveyed to me. My message was to the effect that South Africa was deeply concerned about reports that the Angolan Government was planning a renewed massive assault on Mavinga and Jamba. I am very conscious of the fact that I cannot prescribe to the Angolan Government how it should run its internal affairs. However, I am sure President Dos Santos would have expected and welcomed a straight forward response from me on the issue of bringing peace and stability to the region as a whole. If a large scale new conventional assault is undertaken which is spear headed towards the south, that action would constitute a lack of restraint

contrary to the principles agreed to in New York and the spirit of the Geneva Protocol. It would inevitably heighten tensions in the region and seriously jeopardise our search for peace.

It remains of great importance to me that South Africa, Angola and Cuba refrain from any action which could upset the momentum of the present initiative aimed at resolving the problems of South Western Africa. Therefore, I wish once more to emphasize that a large conventional thrust aimed at eradicating UNITA would in my opinion, not only fail but would exacerbate the situation and could give rise to new large scale conflict in our region.

Mr President, the last thing on my mind is that President Dos Santos should negotiate his own demise but I sincerely believe that all of us in Southern Africa shall only achieve lasting stability and progress once we show a readiness to discuss with dissident and opposition groups within our countries possible ways and means of achieving reconciliation. I sincerely believe we should do this on the basis that all parties invited to participate in such discussions should forswear violence as a means to achieve political objectives. If we do not do so, the existing cycle of violence which eventually will affect all of the region and retard its progress, will continue and the governments of Southern Africa will be confronted with a situation where groups opposing each other will play governments in the region off against one another in such a way that distrust will grow leading to armed attacks across borders and acrimonious exchanges in public.

I appreciate the quick response of President Dos Santos to the message conveyed to him through your good offices last week. I wish to thank you in particular for the trouble you

have taken in sending Minister Veloso as your personal emissary to President Dos Santos only two days after he met me in Pretoria. This action is a good demonstration of how the leaders of our region should go about resolving differences themselves by exchanges of messages and discussions, even if we do not always immediately find mutually satisfactory answers to our problems or differences.

I am in favour of African solutions to African problems tailored to the particular circumstances of the relevant country.

There are other important matters which were raised in the message from President Dos Santos regarding ANC camps in Angola as well as camps in Namibia which President Dos Santos considers to be UNITA camps. These matters deserve further discussion and analysis and I believe that our delegation in Brazzaville will pursue these subjects in their discussions.

It is true that the Alvor Agreement did not fulfil its objective but it did once form the basis of a solution to which all the Angolan parties agreed. The problem is that as long as any one of the Angolan parties feels aggrieved or excluded, for so long will there be a struggle to put right what went wrong. Again while stressing that it is for the Angolans to decide on their own constitutional future I have a duty to be frank with President Dos Santos in expressing my opinion that the conflict in his country affects the region as a whole. He should appreciate that I do not require him to surrender. Rather I would advise him to seek an internal settlement.

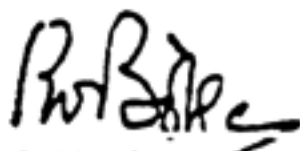
In conclusion, I join President Dos Santos in expressing the hope that the Brazzaville talks will progress further. Once more I would emphasize how satisfied I am that the leaders

in Southern Africa are able in this manner to discuss differences and problems by direct exchanges. I commend you, Mr President, for your role in this regard.

I should be grateful if you should see your way to conveying to President Dos Santos my reaction as set out above to his message.

Rest assured of my highest consideration.

Yours sincerely

  
P W BOTHA

His Excellency Major-General Joaquim Alberto Chissano  
President of the Peoples Republic of Mocambique  
Maputo  
MOCAMBIQUE