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A MESSAGE OF ENCOURAGEMENT AND HOPE FOR PEACE  
AND DEVELOPMENT IN MOCAMBIQUE

A MEMORANDUM USED IN A DISCUSSION WITH THE LEADER OF RENAMO,\  
MR ALFONSO DHLAKAMA

BY MANGOSUTHU BUTHELEZI, PRESIDENT OF INKATHA FREEDOM PARTY  
AND CHIEF MINISTER OF KWAZULU

CARLTON HOTEL, JOHANNESBURG, 3rd SEPTEMBER 1992

It is a great privilege, Mr Dhlakama, to meet you as one of the political leaders of Southern Africa. I have always had difficulty in commenting on the difficulties which have so obviously faced so many states in Africa. It is easy to stand aside as so many European analysts do to condemn African states -for being what in English is expressed as banana states.

For the life of me I would not have wanted to step into the leadership-shoes of African Heads of State who had to face the consequences of colonialism in everything they did.

To take your country, I am very aware of the extent to which the Portuguese colonial rape of Mocambique, left your country with difficulties which would have been awesome for whomsoever governed. In your particular case Mocambique was not only raped to feed Portugal's hunger resulting from the failed Salazar regime, but you were faced with devastating droughts in the first years of Mocambiquean independence.

It is easy to criticise, but I wonder how many critics could have done better than the Heads of African States they criticised.

I make these opening observations to express empathy with those who may have failed in Africa, and with those who, like yourself, had to decide upon courses of action dictated by the failure of parties in power after independence.

It is almost as though history is teaching us very bitter lessons about how to not only salvage Africa from colonial rule, but from the disaster of communism and socialism in Africa as well. I believe that Africa is the continent of the future

precisely because everything we know about people and governing them, has been taught to us by bitter experience and great suffering.

From the early days of Kwame Nkrumah and Africa's plunge into disaster from following socialist ideals right up to today, history has been trying to teach us that ideological purity in political adventurism has nothing to offer people who desperately need democracy and bread and butter politics.

It is against the background of my appreciation of how difficult life has been in Africa both for those who blundered in ruling, and those who had to step in to correct the blunders, that I express my total joy in the agreements that reports say have been reached between RENAMO and FRELIMO. I congratulate you Sir, as much as I congratulate President Chissano, whom I have not yet had the privilege to meet.

I am deeply aware of the fact that we in this country are threatened by the same political blundering which occurred in so many places in Africa.

We have the absurd position here of South African Communist Party revolutionaries saying that it was not communism that failed in the Soviet Union, but it was the leaders who failed communism. While the whole world is turning away from communism and socialism, the African National Congress remains dominated by the majority in its National Executive Committee who are ranking members the South African Communist Party.

I am very concerned about the ANC's communistic bent because communists everywhere in the world who backed revolutionaries have produced total disaster.

I am not a ideologue and I have never felt the need to go on anti-communist vendettas in this country. That would not have helped in any event. What I am saying now is that communism in South Africa is perhaps more dangerous now in the demise of international communism, than it has ever been in the heyday of Soviet power.

In politics I studiously avoid ideological adventurism and I attempt to keep my feet firmly on the ground. For more than a decade I have been saying that the final liberation of South Africa should open up the floodgates of development for the whole of Southern Africa, and for East and West Africa as well. There is a natural conglomerate of African states through which a mineral backbone of major international importance, runs.

African states in southern and central Africa must urgently, I believe, recognise the extent to which all history demands that they nurture symbiotic relationships between them while they recover from past colonialism and present bad government - and I am not using the term bad government than in any other sense than they have elected to pursue the wrong objectives.

I am desperately concerned that the Communist-dominated ANC will destroy all prospects of the liberation of South Africa finally being achieved, in such a way that South Africa and its industrial base will become the gateway for sound economic developments for the whole of the Southern African continent. The ANC is pursuing violence in politics and it is espousing disastrous economic thinking which will lay the land bare.

The ANC/SACP Alliance is pursuing tactics and strategies which will incur enormous South African backlashes.

You Sir, could only have dreamt of the logistic support systems which would be available to any counter-revolutionary group which had to take on the responsibility of destroying ANC strangleholds over South African politics.

While it has been impossible for the ANC/SACP Alliance or any other revolutionary force to establish liberated zones in this country, and while it has been impossible for revolutionaries to make territorial gains, the very reasons for revolutionary

failure amount to enormous support for counter-revolutionary forces.

President Samora Machel is reported to have once flown over South Africa to Botswana and having looked down on the country beneath him, he came to the conclusion that no revolutionary force could win in this country. The developed rail, road and communications networks which made instant security force action against the moves of revolutionaries would be there to support an anti-revolutionary front.

The backlash to ANC/SACP revolutionary abuse of power, should we ever have the misfortune of seeing them ensconced in government, would very thankfully be multi-racial.

A multi-racial, anti-revolutionary force in South Africa would have enormous logistic advantages over anything RENAMO or UNITA could possibly have enjoyed.

I am totally astonished that the ANC/SACP continues behaving as though there is no truth in what I am saying.

I am very much looking forward to the turn in African history which will follow upon RENAMO and UNITA being part of government in Mocambique and Angola. Africa will not be the same again and the Organisation of African Unity will be subjected to infusions of realism about what can and can not be done in South Africa.

There has been a sense in which the OAU could afford to be rhetorical about South Africa, because opposition to apartheid has become a way of life and was generating growth opposition industries in many parts of the world. The OAU could pay extravagant lip-service to the ANC without incurring costs or taking risks. Futile revolutionary plans received significant OAU diplomatic support simply because it cost the OAU nothing to give the support, and that support was useful in the OAU's participation in First world/Third world conflict.

With the demise of the Soviet Union and the possible advent of RENAMO and UNITA in government, I am sure that we can look forward to greater realism on the part of the OAU.

I am looking forward to a growing fraternal relationship between IFP and RENAMO. We are neighbours in Africa and only the thin

wire of a border fence actually separates us. Our destinies are tied together in the wider destiny of Southern Africa within the broader destiny of Africa itself.

We need to keep in contact with each other and I am very pleased to have this opportunity of greeting you and wishing you well in whatever the future holds for you. Mocambique is fortunate in that you appear to be moving towards political settlements. If there is anything I can do to be of assistance in reclaiming Mocambique from disaster, I will be only too happy to oblige. Frankly I do not know if there is anything I can do, but I am willing to consider whatever is possible for me to do by way of assistance to the people of Mocambique

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