

BMK/010/0084/5

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Ref.No. :

DESTABILIZATION ACTIVITIES OF SOUTH AFRICA AGAINST
THE FRONTLINE STATES OF AFRICA - ADDRESS BY MR. R.A.
MROPE, CHARGÉ D'AFFAIRES, EMBASSY OF THE UNITED
REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA - AMSTERDAM 12th JANUARY 1990.

Mr. Chairman,
Your Excellencies,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen;

First, let me thank the conference organisers for inviting me on behalf of Tanzania and other members of the Frontline States to address this conference on a subject - DESTABILIZATION - a very painful subject to Frontline States.

There are, unfortunately, quite a number of tyrannies in the world. And there are other governments in the world which discriminate or promote discrimination against people of particular kinds or beliefs. In every nation there are prejudiced people who commit harmful actions against others. We should - and most anti-apartheid activists do - condemn all such offences against Human Rights, and take appropriate action as opportunity occurs.

It is not necessary to remind this audience that Apartheid is different from other tyrannies: it is a very special and indeed unique evil.

Apartheid is evil.

It is also aggressive. It seeks to extend its control and its power, and by attacking its weaker neighbours, to defend itself against any conceivable threat to its existence.

Before the achievement of independence in Mozambique and Angola, Apartheid South Africa looked at those countries and minority ruled Rhodesia as a comfortable buffer between itself and independent Africa further North. It

therefore cooperated with Portugal, and especially with the Smith regime, in order to help them defend themselves against the national movements. The position changed as the peoples of those states achieved independence.

Since 1974, South Africa has invaded or raided neighbouring countries with its own troops, it has given immense military, logistic, and financial support to any dissident groups it could find or create; it has conducted economic warfare, and it has imposed or lifted sanctions against them. At different times and in different countries it has taken whichever of these actions seemed to it to be most likely at that time to destabilise the new governments, create chaos in the young country, or to convince embarrassed friends that they should continue to support South Africa.

The aims of the apartheid regime have been consistent. It seeks to prevent its independent African neighbours from becoming an example of peace, stability, prosperity and non-racialism. It seeks to dominate the region economically, so as to add to its own strength and prosperity and at the same time to take independent African states hostage against any threat to international sanctions against itself. And it seeks to force its neighbours to act as South Africa's policemen against the infiltration of trained and committed South African opponents of apartheid.

It is not possible to over-estimate the cost to the Frontline States of this South African aggression : but the effect on them certainly does not seem to be realised by the international Community.

Angola and Mozambique gained their independence in 1975, Zimbabwe 1980 - in all cases after a prolonged armed struggle. Mozambique and Zimbabwe inherited economies closely linked to that of South Africa. Without first having had time to begin to organise themselves administratively or economically, all three countries have had to deal during this decade with the same adverse international economic environment, and the same kind of economic crisis, as all other Developing countries. South Africa's economic and military aggression against them is an addition to already daunting problems.

The small states of Botswana, Lesotho, and Swaziland which before 1975 were virtual geographic and economic captives of South Africa and its colonial allies, have also been victims of South Africa aggression since 1980.