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INSERT FOR

DINNER HOSTED BY  
THE HONOURABLE A. MANHENJE  
MINISTER OF INTERIOR, DEFENCE AND SECURITY AFFAIRS  
IN THE PRESIDENCY OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOZAMBIQUE  
REMARKS BY  
MANGOSUTHU BUTHELEZI, MP  
MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS  
OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA  
Mozambique: March 30, 2002

THE FOLLOWING PARAGRAPH IS TO BE ADDED BEFORE THE PARAGRAPH

COMMENCING â\200\234L FEEL THAT WE NEED...â\200\235.

â\200\234The good relationship between our Honourable host, Minister Manhenje and myself has been already extremely productive and, | trust, will continue to be equally productive in the future. Just two weeks ago, on March 16, we had a very profitable meeting in Durban, in which we recorded a wide range of agreements, which brought the relationship between the Republic of Mozambique and the Republic of South Africa towards much closer co-operation. During that meeting we tackled very difficult issues

and, with extraordinary mutual goodwill, we managed to find positive solutions to these.

My colleague, being the experienced statesman he is, shared with me the knowledge that it often simpler to find commonality and agreement in respect of fundamental issues of principle than it is to reach consensus on intricate matters of detail such as logistical arrangements and administrative procedures. Unfortunately, migration control consists of intricate logistical arrangements and procedures which each country

develops within the parameters of its own administrative mind set, laws, regulations and priorities. Yet, by definition, migration control does not stop at our boundaries and, by

necessity, it has to interface with our neighbours across them. This function is not dissimilar to countries building their own railways, which, in order to meet at the boundary line, must be conceived to reach the same destination and have the same characteristics of size and gauge.

Therefore, on this occasion, it is a pleasure for me to register the broad range of agreements we reached during our meeting of March 16. In respect of the border post of Ponta Dâ\200\231louro-Kosi Bay, it was agreed that the national directorate for immigration of both our countries will present a report to my colleague and myself by next June, so as to address all issues relating to this point of entry. In respect of the Ressano Garsiea-Lebombo point of entry, we both took note that the Mozambican government is considering the signature of the international agreement aimed at establishing a one-stop border post, and this issue will be included in the June report to which | referred earlier.

| also had the pleasure of informing my colleague that the Mbuzini border post is under the control of our Department of Defence which we will be consulting in order to assess and improve upon the present situation. We have also considered positively my colleagueâ\200\231s request for assistance to supply water and electricity to the Mozambican

side of Pafuri along with the possibility of extending assistance to the Mozambican officials to receive food from South Africa. We will do that with pleasure, even though we cannot guarantee that what we supply them will be of the same extraordinary quality as the food to which | have grown accustomed to eating in Mozambique and which we are receiving on this sumptuous occasion.

What is important is our mutual desire to help and assist. For this reason, we were pleased to agree to offer our assistance to extend the border facilities to the border posts of Phuza 1 and 2 in order to facilitate the movement of the people living along the border. We are still in the process of studying this request and | expect more positive developments to flow out of our next meeting in respect of this matter. During our meeting we made progress not only in respect of border posts, but also in respect of the thorny issues of repatriation. In this respect we agreed that we should nominate a focal point to monitor the repatriation process as well as the accommodation facility in each centre. The attitude we adopted showed the degree to which we are mutually willing to share a problem without falling prey to a parochial attitude which would see the issue of repatriation affecting our two countries differently. It is indeed our common problem in all aspects, even though we are forced by circumstances to act differently in respect of it. In this regard, we appreciate the Mozambican undertaking to improve facilities in Moamba to accommodate its repatriated citizens, and we await information on the progress of this project.

We also share challenges and opportunities in respect of the thorny management of refugees and asylum seekers, which is a growing, grave concern for countries across the world. We all share in the responsibility for fulfilling the high moral imperatives set forth in the 1951 Geneva Convention on refugee affairs, but many countries are unfortunately provided with insufficient resources to cop with the ever escalating demands arising from a trans-border movement of people who are pushed by a variety of reasons underpinning their fear, desperation and distress. During our last meeting, my colleague and | agreed that our respective departments should nominate a focal

point to monitor matters relating to refugee affairs in each of our countries. It was also agreed that a tripartite team of Mozambique, South Africa and Swaziland should be established to deal with this issue and that we would approach the UN High Commission for Refugees to co-ordinate the meeting of the team. Progress on this

matter will also be included in the report we will be receiving next June.

The date of a dialogue is often mentioned by the willingness of both parties to engage in discussion in all issues which are relevant even when they are difficult. In our meeting we did not shy away from issues relating to visas and it was remarkable that we could reach agreement even in this respect. Our Mozambican counterparts

expressed their concern about the high prices of our visas and pointed to the need for fixing such prices through mutual consultation as originally agreed in the first joint

commission between our two countries. We also tabled decisions to be reported on in the June report. Moreover, the Mozambican delegation proposed that an agreement in respect of the Diplomatic and Service Passport Holders should be reached between the two countries in order to facilitate their movement, and that this should be the first stage toward total abolition of visas between the two countries.â\200\235

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