

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

1 October 1977

2

~~TOP SECRET~~

1 October 1977

Table of Contents

NR Record

At Annex, we discuss President Machel of Mozambique.

For The President Only

NR Record

NR Record

For The President Only

NR Record

For The President Only

NR Record

For The President Only

NR Record

NR Record

NR Record

For The President Only

NOTES

NR Record



--continued

PRESIDENT MACHEL OF MOZAMBIQUE

In his talks with you, President Samora Machel will be seeking to measure US resolve on the Rhodesian problem and intentions toward South Africa. Machel has long had close relations with the major Communist powers and is deeply suspicious of the US. He has responded constructively, however, to recent US efforts in southern Africa, and he does not permit the USSR to exert undue influence in Mozambique.

Machel, 45, has spent much of his adult life as a guerrilla fighter. As Mozambique's first president, Machel has proved to be an able national leader. He is tough-minded, has an engaging personality, and is a skilled public speaker.
he is a fast learner.



President Machel

Despite his strong ideological bent, Machel is a pragmatist when necessary. In his relations with the hated regime in South Africa, for example, he avoids any open diplomatic contact and attacks South African policies at every opportunity, but he has not cut off the extensive and profitable economic links that the Portuguese rulers in Mozambique developed with Pretoria.

Machel remains the unchallenged and pre-eminent figure in the ruling Mozambique Liberation Front (Frelimo) and the government.

--continued

A1

For The President Only

(b)(1)

The President's authority rests, as in most other African countries, on the continued loyalty of the army and police. There appears to be no organized dissent from within the military since a brief mutiny of discontented police and army personnel was quashed in December 1975.

Mozambique's relations with the US have improved markedly in the past few months and are now better than at any time since Mozambique became independent in 1975. Machel, however, has not forgotten that the US maintained close relations with Portugal during the colonial period and perhaps still does not fully understand why the US did not materially aid the Mozambican insurgency.

Machel and the other frontline presidents see US involvement in southern Africa largely motivated by anti-Soviet and anti-Cuban considerations rather than by moral factors. The US role in the current UK-US initiative on Rhodesia and your policy toward South Africa, however, have given him second thoughts. Machel will be weighing the strength of the US commitment and its political and moral determinants; in his view, the burden of proof will be on the US.

Machel and the officials with him will discuss possible aid projects and US private investments. They will also give their views on the Indian Ocean and other foreign policy concerns, but the center of attention probably will be Rhodesia. Machel has expressed concern that Rhodesia could fall into disarray during the transition period.

To avoid this, he has endorsed the proposed UN peacekeeping force and has counseled the Patriotic Front to accept the UN presence.

Until recently, Machel has maintained that a settlement in Rhodesia can be imposed only by military means. His newfound and

--continued

A2

For The President Only

cautious interest in negotiations may have resulted from the influence of Presidents Nyerere of Tanzania and Kaunda of Zambia, who place a higher priority on negotiations. More important, Machel may have been encouraged by assurances that the US backs no particular nationalist leader or faction and intends to work with whoever emerges in an independent Zimbabwe government. Although Machel is willing to discuss Rhodesia, this does not mean he will back US positions in the UN and elsewhere on other matters.

Relations with Communist States

Despite his close relations with the USSR and Cuba, Machel remains deeply committed to nonalignment. The Soviets apparently have been unable to use their leverage to influence Machel to any extent, particularly on matters concerning Rhodesia. As a counterweight to Moscow, Machel is pressing to restore the warm ties with China that existed during the insurgency.

Relations with Others

Machel's closest African ally is Nyerere, with whom he consults often on Rhodesia. A special relationship also exists with Kaunda, primarily on the Rhodesian problem. Machel counts Angolan President Neto among his personal friends. In addition, Mozambique maintains friendly relations with such "progressive" African states as Guinea, Congo, the other former Portuguese colonies, Somalia, and Algeria.

Outside Africa, Mozambique maintains close ties with the Scandinavian countries, which strongly supported the Mozambican insurgents. Machel's visit to Scandinavia in May was his first trip to Western countries since independence.

~~TOP SECRET~~