

Information from Minister of Defense for urgent military aid to Mozambique, 4 January

1979

[Source: Central State Archive, Sofia, Fond 136, Record 86, File 874, p. 5-8]

Declassified as of 10.06.2004  
On the grounds of Article 34, § 1 and 3 of the  
Law for protection of the classified information

Secret

Copy No.

INFORMATION

from the Minister of people's defense  
regarding the situation in Mozambique  
and the request of President Samora Machel for military support

Aggressive acts of Jan Smith's regime against Mozambique started right after the liberation of the country and have not been terminated ever since. Lately, however, they have become more intensive and dangerous. Aggression includes the use of fighter-bombers, helicopter aviation and intelligence units in the form of air strikes and diversion against military, industrial, communications and other facilities. These acts are aiming at hampering the political, state and military leadership of the country, disrupting the work of FRELIMO and the people's authorities on their way to building a people's democratic state, and the restructuring of the economy and other spheres of social life on socialist grounds. They are aiming at causing panic among the population and mistrust in the way the country is developing.

Another important aim of the aggressors is the intention to force Mozambique to terminate its support to the Patriotic front for liberation of

Zimbabwe and to change their negative attitude towards the imperialistic plans to impose a favorable for them solution of Rhodesia issue.

There is no doubt that these acts are known and favored by the USA and other imperialistic countries.

Taking into account the information from our official authorities in Mozambique, the situation in the country is really complicated. The army is in a process of formation and is not capable of giving a decisive resistance to the enemy. Apparently, air-defense is not functioning yet, thus the aggressors are able to carry out their attacks easily and terrorize the whole country.

There is no information proving that South Rhodesia, supported by imperialistic countries, is preparing an armed attack and invasion on land and sea against Mozambique. The decisive role in these acts would be played by the Land Forces of South Rhodesia, which, although well armed, due to their small number could hardly defeat and triumph over the armed forces of Mozambique.

The appeal of Comrade Samora Machel indicates that the country leadership is not sufficiently prepared for serious challenges. Their reaction to the situation in the country, in our opinion, shows that there is some panic among the authorities.

Taking into consideration the real situation, I reckon it would be expedient to take the following steps:

First, to give wide and decisive political support to Mozambique.

Second, to deliver armament as soon as possible. Our country could send one division of 37-mm anti-aircraft guns with 3 sets of ammunition, one anti-aircraft battery ZU-2 with 3 sets of ammunition, ZURS "STRELA-2M" 20 PU with 100 missiles and communications devices to equip these units. This equipment shall be delivered after coordination with the General Staff of the Soviet army.

A decision needs to be taken to deliver equipment at the amount of 350 000 leva, which was verbally promised last year.

We could send some military experts to train their personnel on-site. However, I do not consider this advisable, since there are a sufficient number of

specialists from the Soviet Union and Cuba. If their number needs to be increased, it would be wise for the same countries to send more of their experts.

Sending crews to participate in hostilities, in my opinion, is inexpedient. In this respect, the position of the Soviet ambassador, according to whom the armed forces of Mozambique possess sufficient assets to counteract the aggressors, is absolutely right.

In the process of decision making, it would be good to have in mind that the deputy chairman of the State Council of China Li Sin Nyan is touring Africa and he will visit Mozambique. We could expect that Samora Machel, in case he estimates our support as insufficient, will request the Chinese for help, and there is no doubt they will instantly reply.

This position of ours has been coordinated with 10<sup>th</sup> Main Directorate in the General Staff of the Soviet Armed Forces.

MINISTER OF PEOPLE'S DEFENSE

ARMY GENERAL

[DZHUROV]

No. G-0017/04.01.79

*[Translated by Greta Keremidchieva]*