

**SAS/Notes, Monday, 24 August 1998**

**Note for the Record: Developments in the DRC**

**Two more telephone conversations with President Nelson Mandela**

It would be recalled that earlier this morning (1050-1057 hrs) President Nelson Mandela had telephoned me from Pretoria.

In the course of the evening Madiba telephoned me twice. First, he called me at 2015 hours (up to 2020 hours). He informed me that in view of the deteriorating situation in the Congo, he has been consulting with President Nujoma and President Chiluba (and will be contacting Presidents Mkapa and Chissano) and he has come to the decision that it was important to send a delegation to Angola and the DRC (Luanda and Kinshasa) so as to press for a cease-fire and stand-still of the forces in accordance with the Pretoria SADC Summit Communiqué. He requested that I should take part in that delegation which will include the Foreign Ministers of South Africa, Mozambique, Tanzania and Zambia.

I told President Mandela that I would be prepared to be in the mission but transportation is a problem. Madiba replied that he would take care of that. A plane would come and pick me up here in Addis Ababa.

During the course of our conversation, President Mandela conveyed the greetings of the Heads of State of Nigeria General Abdulsalam Abubakar who was currently visiting South Africa. The Nigerian Head of State was in effect there with

him as Madiba was about to host an official dinner for his guest. I told President Mandela to make use of General Abubakar's experience on the issue of peace-keeping in the context of how best to institute a mechanism for the implementation of the Pretoria Communiqué.

Finally President Mandela informed me that the SADC Ministerial delegation which is being assembled would include the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Mozambique, Tanzania, Zambia and South Africa.

The second telephone call for the evening and the third for the day from President Mandela came at 2305 hours and lasted five minutes (to 2310 hours).

He informed me that they (the South African Government) was sending a plane to me in Addis Ababa. The SADC Ministerial team will be coming to Addis and then from here we will be proceeding to Angola and DRC. I opined that it may be prudent to start with Kinshasa to which President Mandela replied that that was up to me to decide.

I then raised the issue of consultations with President Mugabe of Zimbabwe. Madiba replied that he favoured that. In fact he had wanted that Zimbabwe should be in the team but President Nujoma had strongly advised that none of the countries which are already militarily involved (Zimbabwe and Namibia) should be part of the team.

I said to Madiba that it was still important that he should call President Mugabe and brief him. I expressed my concern at the escalation of differences between Pretoria and Harare and I felt that the development is detrimental to the region and the continent. Madiba said that he was determined to downplay these differences and that he would call President Mugabe (or see to it that he is briefed).