

Southern Africa

17. Heads of Government had a thorough and constructive discussion of the changing situation in Southern Africa and its implications for the Commonwealth. They considered that the imminent independence of Mozambique and Angola had radically altered the balance of forces in the area and tributes were paid to the liberation movements who had contributed so decisively to this result.

18. Heads of Government emphasized that the objective for Rhodesia was independence on the basis of majority rule. They welcomed the initiatives taken by the Heads of Government of Botswana, Tanzania and Zambia and the President of Frelimo to achieve this objective by peaceful means if possible. The Heads of Government, meeting informally, heard a statement by Bishop Muzorewa, President of the African National Council. The Meeting noted that the nationalist movement now united in the African National Council was seeking with sincerity and determination the basis for an agreed settlement.

19. Heads of Government reaffirmed their total support for the struggle of the people of Zimbabwe for independence on the basis of majority rule and pledged to concert their efforts for the speedy attainment of this objective. They took note of the determination of the African freedom fighters, supported by African and other states, to achieve their objective by peaceful means if possible and recognised the inevitability of intensified armed struggle should peaceful