

1963-02-15

Foreign service dispatches:  
Mozambique.

LourencoMarques\_1963-02-15-A204

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*Boston University*



ORIGIN/ACTION

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

EXCISE #3  
E. 2 MOZ  
XR POW 2 MOZ  
FOR RM USE ONLY

# AIRGRAM

AF-5	REP	AF
1		
ARA	EUR	FE
	5	
NEA	CU	INR
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E	P	IO
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L	FBO	AID
AGR	COM	FRB
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INT	LAB	TAR
TR	XMB	AIR
ARMY	CIA	NAVY
5	8	5
OSD	USIA	NSA
12		3
HEW		
7		

19 A-204 NO. CONFIDENTIAL

TO : DEPARTMENT OF STATE (3)

INFO : LISBON, LUANDA, SALISBURY

FROM : Amcongen, LOURENCO MARQUES

SUBJECT : Developments in Beira

REF :

DATE: February 15, 1963

HANDLING INDICATOR  
MESSAGE CENTER  
AF  
1203 FEB 21 PM 2 13  
Jm

Three memoranda of conversation are attached covering a trip to Beira made last week by an officer of the Consulate General. Particularly significant items covered in the conversations are progress on Docks #6 and #7 and plans for #9 and #10, economic recession in Beira as a result of uncertainty over the Federation, the particularly severe floods of this month, and the apparent sincerity of the warm reception given the new Governor of Manica e Sofala, Dr. Francisco CASTELO BRANCO GALVAO.

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

REVIEWED BY *W. Johnson* DATE *3-14-63*

Enclosures: *3*

RDS  or XBS  MEMORANDA OF CONVERSATION

TS AUTH: REASON(S) \_\_\_\_\_

E, DORSE, EXISTING MARKINGS

DECLASSIFIED  RELEASABLE

RELEASE DENIED  *in part*

PA or FOI  DISP  *51, A3*

*Thomas K. Wright*  
Thomas K. Wright  
Consul General

MAR - 1 1963  
FILE

FOR DEPT. USE ONLY  
 In  Out

Drafted by: LHELLIS/gp 2/14/63

Contents and Classification Approved by:

Clearances:

*AFE Dunham NR N 17 Feb 63 File*



## MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

DATE: February 6, 1963

SUBJECT: Port Development, Political and Economic Situation in Beira

PLACE: Residence of the Consular Agent, Beira

PARTICIPANTS: Robert Lee Peace, Consular Agent  
Lloyd H. Ellis, Jr., Vice Consul

Docks #6 and #7 have been in use since September for on- and off-loading. Storage sheds are being completed. In December when Peace last visited the port the grading and filling behind #6 and #7 were 90 percent completed and the storage facilities for #7 were almost completed. Work on the sheds has been stopped because of the rains and flood, but the delay is only temporary and the new facilities have not been damaged by the flood. The chief of the rail-ways said at a party a couple of weeks ago that bids have been let to start work on #9 and #10, but so far there has been no public announcement or anything in the press. The basic cause of congestion in Beira is not the lack of dock space, but the railroad's inability to move off-loaded cargo out of Beira to the Rhodesias.

The political situation is very quiet. Local feeling is that Sarmento-Rodrigues would like to get out of Mozambique but Salazar won't let him go. The people of Beira are very happy about the appointment of Castel Branco Galvao as Governor of Manica e Sofala. They believe he has a real feeling and understanding for Manica e Sofala problems. He was extremely popular as Judge President. There is no indication who arranged it so that the new Governor could return to Beira.

The business community has been dead since August due to uncertainty as to what is going to happen in the Federation. The port traffic has fallen off substantially and the town of Beira is vitally dependent on the port. The people are optimistic, however, and there is still a tremendous amount of building going on -- not as much construction as last year, but still a substantial amount.

Comment: Three brand new beautiful commercial arcades downtown were largely unrented, with the windows whitewashed.

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## MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Economic and Political Situation in Beira  
DATE: February 6, 1963

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The [redacted] Consul said docks #6 and #7 are ready to be used, but they still have no storage facilities and their use is therefore restricted to the dry season. This summer work will begin on sheds and refrigerated facilities for #6 and #7. Ships will be worked at #6 and #7 during the dry season. Bids for #9 and #10 have not been let. If #9 and #10 are ever seriously considered there will be a virtual mountain of mud to cope with. The Consul believes that there is no need for #9 and #10, as #6 and #7 will take the pressure off the port. He believes that congestion in the port of Beira is pretty much a thing of the past and pointed out that no ships were waiting that day. (The next day three ships were being unloaded by lighters).

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The [redacted] Consul spoke very favorably of Robert Lee PEACE, American Consular Agent in Beira. He then commented on "the extremely bad position" geographically of American professional representation in Mozambique. He doesn't see how we can ever tell what's going on in the Province with our only office in Lourenco Marques. Nor could he see how we could find out anything, coming up to Beira once a quarter and asking strangers questions for two days.

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He said that the Portuguese Air Force presence in Beira is a mirage. There may be more airmen than in Lourenco Marques, but that's not many. He has visited three "strategically well placed air bases" to the north, but found them wholly without improvements, buildings, airplanes, or men. He supposes that most of the personnel and aircraft are in Angola. Beira as a headquarters of the Air Force has thus far come to nothing.

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[redacted] the public in Beira is completely politically apathetic. They look for their salvation to Lisbon and they are about to start looking in vain. "As Marx said, the capitalist countries will suppress their colonial peoples only until they feel that the cost of domination is too high. Then their nobler instincts will prevail and they will grant their colonies independence." With Portugal maintaining 30,000 troops in Angola and 14,000 troops in Mozambique, the Consul believes that the cost is becoming excessive for Lisbon and the Portuguese are about to pull out of Mozambique "for the same reason that the British pulled out of India."

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The Consul claimed that a former governor of Manica e Sofala once told him that the governor had proof that Hastings BANDA would try and take all of Mozambique north of the Zambezi. The rest of the province would be left to the United Nations to do with as it liked. [redacted] strongly doubted that the Federation or South Africa would try to bite off part of Mozambique if the Portuguese move out or if order breaks down. "They already have enough trouble with the blacks they have now. Why should they want to take on more of the same problems in Mozambique?" He felt that the danger of incorporating more black areas into Southern Rhodesia and the Republic would outway the loss of the ports of Beira and Lourenco Marques.

He said the flood in Beira this year was no worse than that last year.

Comments: Dress seems to be considerably more informal in Beira than in Lourenco Marques. Both of the professional consuls I met were wearing white shorts and sport shirts in the office.



## MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

DATE: February 7, 1963

SUBJECT: Beira

PLACE: Consulate of Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland

PARTICIPANTS: John STEYN, Federation Consul, Beira  
Lloyd H. Ellis, Jr., Vice Consul

The hospital in Beira is very severely flooded. The floods this week are the worst in anyone's memory. The fire brigades have been out all week futilely pumping day and night. They pump out and the water floods back in. All people in Beira have some sort of private pumping apparatus in their houses to cope with the water. All this equipment has given out in this flood. The road west to the Federation is cut by high water at least once a year. The Portuguese have worked out a fairly smooth-running drill to cope with this problem by loading automobiles onto freight cars to get past the 15-mile area which usually floods.

(Comment. It is much drier south of the Save than is usual this time of the year. Ponds and lakes are not completely full. The hard-pan dried-out bottoms of the ponds are visible from the air along the edge of the water. Some branches of the Incomati River are only intermittently full of water. Halfway between Lourenco Marques and Beira there are numerous dried out swamps. However, water is much in evidence at Beira. The whole area north of the city is a lake. Water is flowing over the main road to the north in three places and the secondary dirt roads were very badly washed out. The city smells like a wet horse in some places. In other places the smell is that of a dank basement.)

Hospital Central, next to the Cathedral, is pretty ghastly looking. It is very badly flooded. Orderlies are wading out in water up to their knees to hang up the hospital laundry. The building which apparently contains the operating rooms (the rail around the porch is covered with rubber gloves drying out) had a rusty corrugated iron roof and iron walls. Everywhere there are dogs, dirt, smell.)

Steyn said work is in progress on Docks #6 and #7, but he had no idea when they would be completed. He did not know whether bids had been let on #9 and #10. He commented that the Portuguese seem to be moving their port captains around awfully fast and also that the port captain in Beira has a terrific job trying to keep the ships moving in and out. The Federation Consul said that the appearance which Beira gives of great activity is the result of the compressed business district, not the tempo of business.

(Comment. The Consul has his offices in a suite which includes his office, an office for his secretaries, and a large room for trade promotion and information activities. He is about 5'8", weighs about 185 lbs, and has a florid complexion. I found Steyn extremely reserved, totally lacking in sense of humor, and very difficult to make conversation with. He is originally from South Africa.)

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