

APPENDIX A

Opening Remarks by the Head of the Visiting Delegation, Lt General Fischer. Commander of the Botswana Defence Force

Honourable Deputy Minister,
Dr Ebenga of Labor Optimus,
Professor Kibasomba of the ISS,
Members of the Visiting Delegation,
Defence Attaches,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentleman.

My task this morning is a fairly short one:

I would like to thank the government in conjunction with the ISS and Labor Optimus for inviting us to the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

We are appreciative of the warm welcome and typical African hospitality accorded to us since our arrival at Ndjili Airport.

Our visit is intended to give us an opportunity to learn from our host about the current situation in the Congo.

Honourable Minister - We do not come here with any preconceived ideas.

We do not come here with any bright ideas.

We do not come here with any solutions or formulas.

However, we bring mainly three things:

- a) Fraternal greetings
- b) Solidarity and support for the peace process
- c) Open minds

Honourable Minister - We can only emphasise what has already been stated by our elders and readers that:

"The key to the future of this great country lies in the hands of the Congolese themselves."

That from within the depths of their humanity, patience, perseverance and determination, the Congolese themselves will evolve solutions for the future.