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Maputo report accuses Malawi of again aiding MNR

The Star's Africa News Service

MAPUTO — Mr Afonso Dhikakama, leader of the Mozambique National Resistance movement, recently flew with 42 white men into a rebel-held town in Mozambique in an aircraft that came from Malawi, the official news agency AIM has reported in Maputo.

The agency said refugees from the town of Milange saw the aircraft land in the town on December 7 and later return to Malawi. People in the town and Malawian officials said Mr Dhikakama arrived in the aircraft.

Whites in attack

AIM has also reported that three white men led an MNR attack on the town of Ulungwe on November 8.

Mr Dhikakama's reported flight, if it took place, would represent a breach of the joint security agreement entered into between Malawi and Mozambique to prevent the MNR from operating in Malawi.

AIM said its reporters interviewed three refugees at Montize who had come from Milange, a rebel-held town in Zambezia province on Malawi's eastern border. All saw the plane. One said he was informed that it carried Mr Dhikakama and 42 whites who came from a Malawian who was not identified by AIM and whose own source of information was not revealed.

Another refugee said she was told by Malawian officials at Lembule that the plane had carried Mr Dhikakama and some whites. The third refugee said he was told by people from Milange that the plane had carried the MNR chief and some white men.

AIM's report of white "mercenaries" leading the attack on Ulungwe was based on interviews with residents who said they watched the attack.

The agency said that one of the three white men spoke Portuguese and the other two spoke English with a South African accent. The agency did not explain how the witnesses would be able to identify a South African accent.
Chissano makes changes to Cabinet

MAPUTO—Mozambique's new president, Mr Joaquim Chissano, has made his first Cabinet changes, turning the Foreign Ministry over to Health Minister Mr Pascoal Mocumbi.

The appointment was foreshadowed on Saturday when Mr Mocumbi, a founder member of the ruling Frelimo Party, was appointed foreign affairs secretary of the Frelimo politburo.

In the shuffle announced last night, Mr Mocumbi was replaced as Health Minister by his deputy, Dr Fernando Vaz.

Frelimo politburo member Maj-Gen Mariano Matsinhe was appointed Security Minister, replacing Mr Sergio Vieira, who becomes director of Frelimo's central ideological school.

Mr Chissano also named a new Minister of Transport and Communications, Lt-Gen Armando Guebuza. He heads the Mozambican inquiry probing Mr Machal's death.

Two Secretaries of State were promoted to full ministers in newly-created portfolios. They are Mr Luis Bernardo Honwana, Minister of Culture, and Mr Aguas Manusa, Minister of Labour. — (Sapa-Reuters)
MNR capture strategic base?

LISBON — Mozambican right-wing rebels said they captured a strategic military base and railway town in a central province at the weekend, killing 83 Mozambican, Zimbabwean and Tanzanian troops and three Cuban military advisers.

A Mozambican National Resistance (MNR) spokesman, in Lisbon, said in a statement, that a force of 300 MNR guerrillas overran the town of Semacuez in Sofala province. They seized three Soviet-built tanks, seven armoured vehicles and a BM-21 multiple rocket launcher, he added.

Semacuez is situated some 50 km north of Mozambique’s second city and port of Beira, on the main railway line leading north-west to Tete province and Malawi.

The spokesman said the attack was aimed at heading off an attempt by the Mozambican army and its Zimbabwean and Tanzanian allies to recapture the rebel-held town of Muamra about 20 km further north on the railway line.

He added that 15 government troops were captured and 35 military trucks, more than 750 small arms and large amounts of ammunition were seized.

The spokesman said the MNR forces suffered eight dead and 35 wounded in the attack, which came amid reports of heavy fighting between the rebels and government troops over the last week.

The MNR spokesman said he had no information about the reported kidnapping last month of three Italian missionaries in an MNR-controlled area of northern Mozambique. The Congregation of Priests of the Sacred Heart in Bologna, Italy, had reported the capture of the three members of the order. — Sapa-RNS

Town bombed

N’DJAMENA — Four Libyan MiG aircraft yesterday bombed Arada, a small Chadian, town held by French troops since 1983 to prevent Libyan-backed rebels advancing on N’Djamena, Radio Chad announced. — Sapa-AF
Millions face starvation because of Renamo's activities

The government's social policies have worked in many places where they are able to be carried out. Eighty-five percent of children in Maputo have been inoculated, the highest figure in Africa. But outside Maputo the figure is much lower.

The whole food chain is also in ruins. Many farms have been destroyed by drought or rebels. People are afraid to go out into the fields knowing bandits might appear. Those who do farm are terrible short of seed and hoes and irrigation equipment.

They have little incentive to produce more than they themselves need as the transport infrastructure has been almost entirely destroyed by the rebels. Farmers cannot take their food to markets for sale.

Even armed convoys no longer drive beyond Inhambane on the main road to the north and to Beira. Mozambique's second port.

In the whole of Tete province, which had traditionally been the granary of Mozambique, the government, which controls most of the food distribution, has only 14 tonnes that work.

The combination of these things means that according to Unicef's recent report, the country has a shortage of maize, wheat, and rice of nearly 300,000 tons this year.

In Maputo, the markets have been full of food since the price of vegetables was liberalized in May 1986. But the prices are way beyond the reach of most people — one kilo of tomatoes costs more than two days' wages.

**Stunted generation**

Many people get something like one kilo of rice or beans, 1.5 kilos of maize and half a kilo of soap every month.

In the countryside malnutrition is very serious. Few people are in danger of dying tomorrow but according to Unicef, a while generation of Mozambicans is growing up stunted and with serious medical problems.

In several areas Unicef has surveyed, 40 percent of children have historical malnutrition, which causes permanent physical disabilities.

The fire is worse than in Bangladesh and it comes only from the areas where Unicef has not been able to do anything. People are suffering even more badly.

The picture is not entirely dismal. In the north, the area of Niassa and Cabo Delgado, life goes on mostly as normal. In Maputo province farming projects are flourishing.

In 1986, some 20,000 former refugees have returned to their village in the area of Niassa and Cabo Delgado. The government has been able to help in this area.

**Ragged bands**

The rebels are strongest around the borders of Malawi, which stretches like a knife into the heart of Mozambique. Their headquarters are at Cassa Banana, in Gorongosa area near the Beira corridor, the vital link from Zimbabwe to the Mozambican coast.

It is impossible to tell which ragged bands of men Renamo and which are just bandits with guns, but between the two there is distinct most of the country. In the unexpected raids they burn down schools, destroy crops, rape villages and kill the inhabitants.

Between 1989 and 1993 the number of people whose children died from hunger and disease fell from four million in at height of the drought to below 2,500,000. The number has crept up again to more than 3,000,000 because of the ongoing war rather than weather.

In 1992 Mozambique had around 1,000 clinics and health posts. Since then more than 200 posts have been destroyed and a similar number sacked and robbed.

In Machava, not more than 16 km from Maputo, the United Nations Children's Fund helped open an orphanage for children of October, a modern maternity ward. I was taken to see a baby girl safely being born.

But the ward is surrounded by a stretch of flat land a 10-foot high barbed-wire fence. At night the wall closes up and the mothers and newborn babies are moved to a hospital with primitive facilities but within the city boundaries.

One of the nurses, Mrs Laura Bila, was abducted by rebels in a nearby village where she had previously worked. She described how a woman had just given birth late one night when some 15 men burst into the clinic.

They led the nurse and midwife outside at bayonet point. They damaged the bicycles and telephones. They then toured the area, forcing about 50 people to gather up their possessions from their homes and force-marched them into the bush.

All but the midwife were eventually released and their possessions. The midwife was taken by the bandits to look after their own livestock.

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Sanctions 'will boost MNR'

THE imposition of sanctions against South Africa has given the Pretoria government another reason to support the Mozambique National Resistance Movement, a researcher with the Georgetown University Centre for Strategic and International Studies, Ms Gillian Gunn, has said.

In an article published by the centre's magazine African Notes, Ms Gunn said that the Mozambican president, Joaquim Chissano, is aware that South Africa now has two reasons for aiding the MNR, "rather than the one reason it had in 1984".

"It still wants to pressure Mozambique not to support the ANC, but sanctions are an added priority," she said.

"If, as seems increasingly evident, South Africa intends to use its neighbours as hostages in the sanctions game, there may be greater incentive to help the MNR keep regional transport routes to Africa's east coast closed, while also continuing to aid Angola's Unita guerrillas in keeping the west coast route out of action."

Pretoria's willingness to use the transport weapon both as a deterrent and as retaliation against sanctions had already been demonstrated by its August 1986 slowdown of shipments across the South Africa-Zimbabwe border, she added.

"If South Africa were to cut off the MNR completely, this valuable lever would be eroded."

In her article, Ms Gunn said that even if an agreement was reached between the Frelimo Government and the MNR rebels, violence in the country would not end.

"The MNR is not an army with an authoritative central command," she wrote.

"Its recruits join up because that is the simplest way to survive. If a young man is on the verge of starvation, joining the MNR and thereby receiving a weapon with which to steal food is an attractive option already, as occurred in Uganda, violence is becoming a way of life for significant portions of the population."

Ms Gunn said that in her efforts to solve Mozambique's dramatic problems, the country's president, Mr Chissano, is unlikely to do a new deal with South Africa, negotiate with the MNR or turn vigorously to the East or to the West.

He will probably encourage Zimbabwe to send more troops to Mozambique and at the same try to reorganise the army and implement economic reforms, she wrote.

"If Chissano's strategy fails, and the military situation continues to deteriorate, Frelimo will not necessarily be ousted from power, but it could find itself in control only of the southern part of the country, and perhaps only in the urban areas of the south," she said.
THE board of inquiry into the the air crash in which President Samora Machel died is likely to commence in the latter part of this month.

Department of Civil Aviation chief director Japie Smit says most of the investigators involved in the inquiry met their Mozambican and Soviet counterparts in Komatipoort yesterday to discuss the final drafting of the preliminary report.

The three parties involved in the investigation have met in Komatipoort regularly to discuss the report, which is now at a "reasonably advanced stage".

The aim of the meetings, Smit says, is to ensure the parties involved agree on the report before its submission to the board of inquiry, where it will be "thrashed out".

"Although SA is the country responsible for submitting the report, we are trying to do this with the involvement of the other parties involved, to avoid major disputes and, hopefully, make it easier to thrash out during the inquiry."

A final report will be drafted once the board has made its findings. It will be submitted to the Transport Minister and the International Civil Aviation Organisation.

Although the inquiry is almost certain to be heard in Pretoria, suitable premises need to be found because of considerable public interest and the likely presence of many representatives from the foreign media.

While the cockpit voice recorder has been played back in Switzerland and the flight data recorder analysed in Moscow, it is not possible to determine the whereabouts of all the "black boxes".

Commenting on the "black boxes", Smit says: "Anything in this regard will be kept by us until it is no longer needed."

As the preliminary report appears to be near completion, Mr Justice Cecil Magos is likely to announce the inquiry date soon, Smit says.
The investigation into the air crash which killed President Samora Machel is nearing completion and the board of inquiry into the crash is expected to begin in Pretoria later this month.

Mr Ronnie Meyer, Deputy Director-General of the Department of Transport, said today that South African investigators involved in the inquiry met with the Soviet and Mozambican teams in Komatipoort yesterday for a "routine discussion" of the draft report.

"These meetings are aimed at drawing up a single report, on which every-one agrees, for presentation to the board of inquiry," Mr Meyer said.

He said that he did not have details of the discussions, but added that the report was at an advanced stage and would probably be completed by the middle of the month.

"Indications are that the board of inquiry will start from the third week in January and that the overseas members will be here a week before to allow them time to investigate the scene of the crash and the aircraft remains," Mr Meyer said. • See Page 6.

Sapa reports that the president of the House-wives' League, Mrs Lyn Morris, was concerned the price of meat would contribute to rampant inflation.

Mrs Morris said the high meat prices were the result of an overkill during the drought.

Dr Coetzee said the results were the opposite. Although stock numbers had been reduced, the overkill was of weaker animals.
SA now has 2 reasons to support rebels claim (20)

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VIOLENCE

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Machel crash survivor dies in hospital

PRETORIA — One of the survivors of the Samora Machel aircraft crash, Mr Lito Marthino, died in hospital in Nelspruit yesterday, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Pak Botha, announced here.

And in Komatipoort, Mozambican, South African and Russian aviation officials met yesterday to discuss final details of a comprehensive report they are preparing on the air crash.

Mr Botha said in a statement that Mr Marthino died of pneumonia and sepsicaemia. He died in Rob Ferreira Hospital, where he has been kept on a lung machine since the crash on October 19 last year.

Mr Botha said the Mozambican government had been informed of Mr Marthino's death and that the two governements were making arrangements for the return of his body to Maputo.

"If the Mozambican government requires a post-mortem, it can be performed together by doctors from the two countries," Mr Botha's statement said.

Mr Marthino was the last of the crash survivors receiving treatment in a South African hospital.

Independent inquiry

The Director of Civil Aviation, Mr Japie Smit, said yesterday that the final report would be submitted to the board of inquiry which is expected to convene later this month, almost certainly in Pretoria.

Mr Justice Mango, of the Transvaal Bench, has been appointed as the local investigator and has promised a "full, fearless and independent inquiry" which would begin by looking at the medical history of the pilot and his behaviour on the day of the accident.

Mr Smit said South Africa still had two of the four black flight recorder boxes while the other two had, to the best of his knowledge, remained in Switzerland and Moscow where international investigations were conducted into the crash. One of the black-boxes in Pretoria is a duplicate of the box investigated in Moscow, he said.

The South African technical investigation is being conducted by Mr Rennie van Zyl, Director of Air Safety of the Directorate of Civil Aviation.

The crash has been marked by fierce international controversy, including the accusation that South Africa "lured" the Tupolev-135 jet into the Lebombo foothills on the Transvaal-Mozambique border by using a signal beacon — Sapa, Staff Reporters.
Frelimo conference on civil war

MAPUTO — Mozambique's ruling Frelimo party chiefs began a three-day meeting yesterday devoted mainly to discussing the civil war with right-wing rebels.

Mr Chissano said the central committee would be given a preliminary report on the causes of the plane crash last October in which his predecessor, President Samora Machel, died.

An international probe involving teams from South Africa, where the Tupolev jet came down, Mozambique and the Soviet Union, which made the plane, has not yet published a report.

Mr Chissano said the meeting would analyse and take decisions on all major issues affecting the country, plagued by civil war for the past 11 years and by a crippling drought since 1983.

Since Mr Chissano succeeded Machel last November, he has often spoken out against bureaucratic bottlenecks and threatened to purge the civil service and to make it more efficient.

Political analysts said the meeting was also expected to choose a new Frelimo Foreign Relations Secretary — the post held by Mr Chissano until his election as Head of State — Sapa-Reuters
Maputo fears S.A. will launch attack

MAPUTO — SA is preparing for a direct attack on Mozambique, possibly within the next two weeks, says President Joaquim Chissano. He made the claim on Monday when he received Belgium's new ambassador to Mozambique, Michael Geuens, and again at a diplomatic reception.

The official news agency AIM quoted Chissano as telling Geuens SA was not only backing right-wing MNR insurgents, but was "increasingly threatening a direct attack against our country".

At the diplomatic reception, Chissano said there was a "possibility that South Africa might strike directly within the next fortnight".

He was optimistic Maputo could "ensure that these threats are not put into practice. We shall do everything to see there is no disturbance and we shall not rise to any provocation," AIM reported him as saying.

During his meeting with the Belgian envoy, Chissano said the aim of SA's attacks was to destroy Mozambique's independence, undermine its democracy and subvert its nation's freedom.

"The actions of the apartheid regime against the People's Republic of Mozambique are contrary to the basic principles of international law," he said.

An SADF spokesman in Pretoria said yesterday that SA's position on Mozambique was a matter of public record.

"South Africa and the Defence Force wish to live in peace with all neighbouring states, but not at the cost of the safety of all its peoples.

"The statement by Mr. Chissano is no more than an attempt to convince the international community that Mozambique's internal problems are not of their own making."
No reaction from Maputo over expulsion claims

MAPUTO — The Mozambican authorities were today silent on reports that they had agreed to expel six African National Congress (ANC) officials from Maputo after South Africa demanded their expulsion.

There has been no official reaction or comment to the reports.

Among those to be expelled is the ANC's chief representative in Mozambique, Mr Jacob Zuma, but it is not clear whether the ANC's offices in Maputo will be closed.

When Mozambique signed the Nkomati Accord with South Africa, in 1984, hundreds of ANC members were expelled but it was agreed the ANC could keep a small representation in the Mozambican capital.

On Monday Mozambican President Joaquim Chissano told foreign diplomats there was a possibility that South Africa could attack Mozambique within two weeks.

"We shall not rise to any provocation," Mr Chissano told the diplomats.

The SADF denied Mr Chissano's claims, describing them as "a propaganda play".

However, observers in Maputo now believe Mr Chissano could have been referring to demands by the South African Government to expel the ANC members or face retaliation.

The ANC leader, Mr Oliver Tambo, visited Maputo last week and is reported to have agreed the six ANC members should leave for their own safety.

Other ANC members to be expelled are said to include Mr Andrew Naidoo, a former Robben Island political, and Mrs Sue Rubbin..."
Chissano claims SA was ready to strike

MAPUTO — Six top-ranking ANC officials have been expelled from Mozambique after Pretoria threatened to attack the country, government sources said yesterday.

The expulsions took place after the ANC leader, Oliver Tambo, held discussions with officials during his visit here last week and assured them that South Africa would leave for their own safety.

The six included the ANC's entry to Mozambique, Mr Jacob Zumah who spent some years on Mozambique's island of St. Thomas.

Others in the group were political activists and former St. Thomas Island's founder, Mr. Joseph Nkosi who was a prominent figure in Mozambique's struggle against apartheid.

Mr Zumah, who was known for his close ties with the South African leaders in exile, was expelled after it was alleged that he had been involved in activities against the ANC.

The ANC, which has been fighting for South African liberation for decades, issued a statement saying that the expulsions were a violation of their principles.

The ANC, which is banned in South Africa, operates in neighboring countries where it has a significant presence.

The expulsion of the six leaders comes as a surprise to many, as they were seen as key figures in the ANC's operations on the continent.

The ANC leaders were given until the end of the week to leave Mozambique.

The government sources said that South Africa had threatened to invade Mozambique if the ANC leaders were not expelled.

The ANC has been operating in Mozambique for several decades, and the expulsion of its leaders will likely have a significant impact on the ANC's activities in the country.

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SA asked for ANC removals

MAPUTO. — Six members of the African National Congress are leaving the country after what sources here say were threats against their lives from South African authorities.

In South Africa Mr Pik Botha, Minister of Foreign Affairs, issued a statement in Pretoria saying the government had recently asked the Mozambican government that the six ANC members in Maputo "be removed from Mozambique immediately".

President Joaquim Chissano of Mozambique referred to apparent threats at a New Year's reception for diplomats, when he said South Africa might launch a direct attack on Mozambique in the next two weeks, but steps had been taken to prevent it.

Mr Botha's statement said "the South African government would have no choice but to take steps to avert the threat if the Mozambican government did not see its way clear to remove the threat".

Sources in Maputo said the six ANC members who will leave the country include five who work in the ANC office in Maputo. They are chief representative Mr Jacob Zuma, also a member of the ANC executive committee headquartered in Lusaka, Mr Keith Mokoape, in charge of youth and information affairs, Mr Bobby Pillay, the ANC's finance officer in Maputo, Mr Indres Naidoo, an ANC public relations officer, and Ms Sue Rabkin, who dealt with welfare matters. The sixth person, Mr Mohamed Timol, is not a member of the ANC office staff. He was identified by the sources as a South African married to a Mozambican woman.

Mr Zuma and Mr Naidoo were once imprisoned at Robben Island in South Africa in connection with anti-government activity and Mr Naidoo wrote a book about his experience, "Island in Chains".

Mr Botha said the ANC members had supplied weapons and explosives to an ANC committee in Swaziland. — Sapa-AP
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However, observers here now believe that Mr Chissano could have been referring to demands by the South African Government to expel ANC members or face retaliation.

The ANC leader Mr Oliver Tambo, visited Maputo last week and is reported to have agreed that the six ANC members should leave for their own safety. Others to be expelled are said to include Mr Indress Naidoo, a former Robben Island detainee, and Ms Sue Rabin.

Mr Naidoo is known to have been in Mozambique for about 10 years. — Sowetan Africa News Service.

- The Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Pik Botha, has confirmed that South Africa recently approached the Mozambican Government on the presence of six ANC members in Maputo, SABC radio news reported.
MNR kills eight, cuts city's power — report

The Star's Africa News Service

MAPUTO — In a well-planned attack, Mozambique National Resistance (MNR) guerrillas have cut electricity to Mozambique's third largest city, Nampula, and kidnapped a Portuguese family.

The Mozambique news agency, Aim, said eight people were killed and a Portuguese citizen, his wife and child kidnapped when two groups of guerrillas attacked the important industrial and railway town of Monapo, in the northern province of Nampula, on January 2. Monapo lies 140 km east of the city of Nampula.

Aim said that for the attack the guerrilla force split into two groups "so as to raid simultaneously the industrial zone and the part of Monapo that houses the local administration".

In the industrial area the guerrillas blew up a local power station, burnt 12 vehicles and destroyed 30 tons of cashew nuts.

The second group of guerrillas blew up the Monapo district administrative offices and the residence of the district administrator, who was not in the town.

Aim said this group of guerrillas had also destroyed the Monapo hospital and the town's "electricity station" which supplies power to the provincial capital, Nampula, and the island of Mozambique.

The Monapo police headquarters were also destroyed. Aim said the guerrillas were led by a man "carrying a list of people to be killed or kidnapped".

The attackers had come from Zambézia province, said Aim. This area is almost totally under MNR control.
MNR cuts power, kidnap family in well-planned attack

Argus Africa News Service

MAPUTO — In a well-planned and daring attack, Mozambique National Resistance guerrillas have cut electricity supplies to Nampula, the country's third largest city, and kidnapped a Portuguese family.

Mozambique's news agency AIM said eight people were killed and a Portuguese, his wife and child were kidnapped when two groups of guerrillas attacked the important industrial and railway town of Monapo in the northern province of Nampula on January 2.

Monapo is 140km east of the town of Nampula, while the railway line from Nacala on the coast to Malawi goes through Monapo.

AIM said the guerrilla force split into two groups 'to raid simultaneously the industrial zone and the part of Monapo that houses the local administration.'

In the industrial area the guerrillas blew up a power station, burnt 12 vehicles and destroyed 30 tons of cashew nuts.

Several bales of cotton were also burnt.

The agency added that the second group of guerrillas blew up the Monapo district administrative offices and the residence of the district administrator, who was not in town.

AIM said this group of guerrillas also destroyed the Monapo hospital and the town's electricity station which supplies Nampula, the provincial capital, and the island of Mozambique with power.

Details on the consequences of the power station sabotage were not given.

The Monapo police headquarters were also destroyed.

The guerrillas were led by a man carrying a list of people to be killed or kidnapped.

AIM said the attackers had come from Zambezia province, almost totally under MNR control.

Specially trained commandos of the Mozambican army are fighting MNR rebels in Zambezia.

AIM said the military situation in one of the province's districts, Nioadala, had improved dramatically after search-and-destroy operations launched by the commandos.

AIM said the commandos were known as 'Red Berets' and had first gone into action in October.

A recent report in the Mozambican weekly Domingo said the Mozambican security policy, SNASP, had also trained a special anti-guerrilla force.
Mozambique’s Chissano organises big reshuffle

Argus Africa News Service

MAPUTO.—Mozambique’s Minister of Security, Colonel Sergio Vieira, has been sacked from his post as well as the governors of Tete and Zambezia provinces where anti-government rebels recently launched a successful offensive.

In a wide-ranging government reshuffle after a five-day meeting of the ruling Frelimo Party Central Committee, President Joaquim Chissano also announced the appointment of Mr Pascoal Mucumbi as the country’s new Minister of Foreign Affairs.

The reshuffle had been expected since Mr Chissano, who previously held the post of Foreign Minister, succeeded President Samora Machel in November last year.

Shortly before the surprise announcement that Colonel Vieira had been sacked from the Cabinet was made, Frelimo’s central committee disclosed in a statement that he had been appointed director of the party’s central school for cadres.

The new Minister of Security is the veteran Frelimo member, Mr Mariano Matambo.

Party post

Mr Eduardo Arro, who was sacked from the post of governor of Tete province, was appointed to the party post of secretary for organisation.

The sacked governor of Zambezia province, Mr Feliciano Gendane, has been appointed Minister of State in the Presidency.

He replaces hardliner Mr Armando Geuibuza who becomes the country’s new Minister of Transport.

President Chissano also announced the creation of two new Cabinet posts, labour and culture.

At a party level Mr Julio Carrilho, Minister of Works and Water Affairs, has been appointed as Secretary for Administration and the new Minister of Foreign Affairs. Mr Mucumbi, has been appointed Secretary for Foreign Affairs. Mr Mucumbi is replaced as Minister of Health by Dr Fernando Vaz.

Meanwhile, six members of the African National Congress (ANC), whose expulsion had been demanded by the South African Government, left Maputo for Lusaka on Friday.

ANC “transferred”

The official newspaper, Noutenas, said they had been “transferred.”

One of them, Mr Indruss Naidoo, told the Mozambique News Agency (Aim) at the weekend that their departure did not mean the ANC would close its offices in Maputo.

He described as “a pure lie of the South African regime” a report published in a Johannesburg morning newspaper that the offices would be closed. Among those who left on Friday was the ANC’s chief representative in Maputo, Mr Jacob Zuma.
Vieira sacked in Mozambique Cabinet reshuffle

The Star's Africa News Service

MAPUTO — Mozambique's Minister of Security, Colonel Sergio Vieira, has been sacked from his post, together with the Governors of Tete and Zambezia provinces where anti-government rebels recently launched a successful offensive.

In a wide ranging government reshuffle following a five-day meeting of the ruling Frelimo Party Central Committee, President Joaquin Chissano also announced the appointment of Mr. Pascoal Mucumbi as the country's new Minister of Foreign Affairs.

The reshuffle had been awaited since Mr. Chissano, the previous Foreign Minister, succeeded President Samora Machel in November last year.

Shortly before the surprise announcement that Colonel Vieira had been sacked from the Cabinet, Frelimo's Central Committee disclosed in a statement that he had been appointed director of the party's central school for cadres.

The new Minister of Security is the veteran Frelimo member, Mr. Mariano Matsinha.

Mr. Eduardo Arao, who was sacked from the post of Governor of Tete province, was appointed to the party post of Secretary for Organisation.

The sacked Governor of Zambezia province, Mr. Feliciano Gandala, has been appointed Minister of State in the presidency.

He replaces in this post the hard-line Mr. Armando Geuba, who becomes the country's new Minister of Transport.

President Chissano also announced the creation of two new Cabinet posts, Labour and Culture.

At a party level, Mr. Julio Carrilho, Minister of Works and Water Affairs, has been appointed as Secretary for Administration and the new Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Pascoal Mucumbi, has been appointed Secretary for Foreign Affairs.

Mr. Mucumbi is replaced as Minister of Health by Fernando Vaz.
Machel plane crash inquiry — Frelimo receives report

MAPUTO — The Mozambican commission of inquiry into the aircraft crash in which President Samora Machel died in October last year has handed a report to the ruling Frelimo Party Central Committee, it was reported here.

No details were available.

The Mozambique News Agency, AIM, said that during last week's five-day Central Committee meeting "the committee approved the work so far of the commission of inquiry and mandated it to continue its activities."

JUSTICE MARGO

The South African commission of inquiry, chaired by Mr Justice Cecil Margo, will meet for the first time next week in Johannesburg.

The Central Committee also decided to postpone Frelimo's fifth congress, which under party rules was due to be held next year.

In accordance with powers invested in the Central Committee, said AIM, it was decided to postpone the congress until 1989.

This was being done due to "the need to concentrate efforts on the 'defence of the country and the implementation of measures for economic recovery."}
Six ANC men leave for Lusaka

The Star's Africa News Service

MAPUTO — Six members of the African National Congress, whose expulsion had been demanded by the SA Government, have left Maputo for Lusaka.

The official newspaper Noticias said the men had been "transferred".

One of the expelled members, Mr Indriss Naidoo, told the Mozambique News Agency (AIM) that their departure did not mean the ANC would close its offices in Maputo.

He described as "a pure lie of the South African regime" a report in a Johannesburg morning newspaper that the offices would be closed.

Among those who left for Lusaka on Friday was the ANC's chief representative in Maputo, Mr Jacob Zuma.
Maputo rail link to open in 3 months?

Dispatch Correspondent

HARARE - Zimbabwe's direct rail link to the Mozambican port of Maputo could be opened within three months - vastly cutting the frontline states' dependence on the South African transport system and hence increasing their capacity to join the sanctions campaign against South Africa.

This was reported here yesterday by the Financial Gazette, Zimbabwe's only independent newspaper, which has authoritative sources within the country's business community.

At present, Zimbabwe's sole independent outlet to the sea is through the Beira corridor, which carries only 10 per cent of the country's world trade.

Even when a massive rehabilitation programme is completed in 1990, the shallow water port will not be able to handle more than 60 per cent of Zimbabwe's total trade, even by the most optimistic estimate.

Before Renamo rebel activity closed Zimbabwe's direct access to Maputo in 1984, however, the deep water harbor at the Mozambican capital had the capacity to take two-thirds of Zimbabwe's total volume of import and exports.

Renamo sabotage of the railway line from the border post of Chicalacuila (formerly Malvernia) in the extreme south east of Zimbabwe severed the link indefinitely in August of that year after numerous previous temporary interruptions to traffic.

Two seasons of heavy rains have added to the damage done by sabotage.

But, according to sources quoted by the Financial Gazette only 48 km of the 334 km from the Zimbabwean border to Maputo needs total reconstruction.

If Zimbabwean security forces could guarantee protection for repair teams, the line could be operating on a limited basis within three months.

"It could probably carry about one or two trains a day, but these could operate while rehabilitation work on the rest of the line was undertaken," a businessman in the Zimbabwean Transport Industry told the Financial Gazette.

"Until the MNR is eliminated, the promise of the Maputo line cannot be realised," warned another shipping source.

Security men believe the Zimbabwean Government feels the Chicalacuila line is too vulnerable, since it runs for long stretches within a night's march of the South African border.

Despite Pretoria's repeated denials, Mr Robert Mugabe's government remains convinced South Africa is plotting and arming the rebels to attack the frontline states' line of communication through Mozambique in order to make them hostages to the South African transport system.

The two leaders, who were formerly in the forefront in the international campaign for comprehensive sanctions against South Africa, backed away from immediate impositions of their own embargoes after considering mounting practical problems, including recent food riots in Zambia.
Report ‘may harm’ Machel crash inquiry

Own Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG.—The commission of inquiry into the crash that killed President Samora Machel will investigate a possible infringement of the sub judice rule following a newspaper report alleging that the instruments were tampered with before they could be examined.

Civil-aviation officials said they were concerned the disclosures may jeopardize the investigation into the October crash.

In a front-page report, Beeld quoted the head of the chemistry section at the South African Bureau of Standards, Mr Maarten Venter, as saying there were indications "someone had tampered with key evidence in an attempt to alter the findings on the cause of the crash.”

Beeld said someone had attempted to adjust the instrument settings.

No comment

Mr Venter yesterday declined to comment on the report.

The chief director of the Directorate of Civil Aviation, Mr Japie Smit, said he could neither confirm nor deny the report. He said he was concerned the report would damage the inquiry.

"It came at the wrong moment," he said.

He confirmed, however, that parts of the aircraft had been sent to the SABS for examination. That was "standard practice", he said.

In girl arrested
Assembly expected to pass austerity plan

The Star's Africa News Service

MAPUTO — A tough budget and a programme for economic recovery are expected to be approved by Mozambique's parliament, the People's Assembly, which meets here from today.

Leaders have been warning that, after negotiations with the World Bank and International Monetary Fund, an austerity programme would soon be approved.

RECOVERY

Last week the ruling Frelimo Party's Central Committee met for five days to discuss the programme for economic recovery and budget for 1987.

Mozambique News

Agency AIM said their implementation demanded "additional sacrifices" from the people.

Measures are expected to affect the civil service and dozens of State companies and farms.

Both the World Bank and the IMF have demanded a reduction in State expenditure.

A substantial devaluation of the country's currency, the Metical, may also be announced.

The Central Committee called for "rigorous austerity campaigns".

The 250 MPs elected last year are also expected to analyse the war situation in the country and elect the new People's Assembly chairman.

He is expected to be the Frelimo veteran, Mr Marcelino dos Santos.
Experts due in SA for Machi Inquiry
MNR will free three captured missionaries

LISBON — Mozambican right-wing rebels said last night they would shortly free four captives — including three Italian Roman Catholic missionaries — seized recently.

But a spokesman for the Mozambique National Resistance (MNR) said that five other captured missionaries — four Italians and a Portuguese nun — had said they wanted to stay in the rebel areas.

The spokesman named the three Italians captured in an MNR attack on Mulala in Zambezia province last month as Fr Onormi Venturini, Fr Ezio Dottier and Fr Vittorino Bianelli.

Portuguese technician Mr Sergio Campos and his wife and daughter, seized in a raid on Monapo in Nampula province on January 2, would also be freed shortly, he said.

The others were named as Italian priests Fr Giuseppe Ruffini, Fr Giuseppe Zanetti, Fr Giorgio Bandolim and Portuguese nun Sister Maria dos Prazeres Mendes Povo. The other priest was not identified.

The MNR, which has fought the government almost since independence from Portugal, released more than 60 foreign captives last month in a Christmas good will gesture. — Sapa-Reuter
Over 23,000 flee war to Zambia

LUSAKA — The number of Mozambicans who have fled across the border into Zambia’s Eastern Province is now over 23,000, it has been disclosed here.

A top official of the ruling Frelimo Party, Mrs. Chibesa Kankasa, said yesterday that most of the refugees were running away from the war in Mozambique’s Tete province. She accused South Africa of being behind the war.

Last year guerrillas of the Mozambique National Resistance movement launched an offensive in Tete province and since then the number of refugees fleeing into Zambia has increased.
‘Fearless’ probe into Machel death crash

The Argus Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG — The public inquiry into the aircraft crash which killed Mozambican President Samora Machel will be fearless in spite of “suggestions to the contrary”, says Mr Justice Cecil Margo, chairman of the board of inquiry.

“Our aim is to get to the truth,” Mr Justice Margo said at a press conference in his chambers yesterday.

Former US astronaut Colonel Frank Borman, one of three international aviation experts on the board, said that up to now the inquiry had been “completely independent”.

“I’m confident we will be able to come up with the probable cause of the accident,”

The technical investigation report, which will form much of the basis of the inquiry, was “being finalised”.

The Mozambicans and Soviets are in the country consulting with the South African team.

The public inquiry, which begins in the Rand Supreme Court at 9.30am on Tuesday, will be in open court.

The judge said “All interested parties will have a voice and be allowed to take part, using their own advisers or representatives”.

A report would be sent to the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO).

Asked if representatives from international organisations would be observing the inquiry, Sir Edward Eveleigh, a former Lord Justice of Appeals in Britain, said “No, but they would be welcome”.

Mr Geoffrey Wilkinson, who has flown a Tupolev TU-134A, the type of aircraft which crashed near Komatipoort on October 19 last year, said his experience with the aircraft “can only be helpful”.

The board members will visit the crash site this weekend.
Britain ups military aid to Mozambique

continued independence of Zimbabwe and an insurance policy against further destabilisation and cross-border raids by SA.

Britain is also a donor to the major R600m international effort to renovate and keep open the vital Beira corridor rail, oil and road link between Zimbabwe and the Mozambican coast.

The increased British military support for Mozambique comes at a time when British officials are conceding a shift of emphasis in regional foreign policy aimed at helping the Frontline states reduce their economic dependence on SA but also dissuading them from imposing direct sanctions against Pretoria.

The British shift also comes as polarisation in the region intensifies with the Frontline states apparently responsible for reviving an anti-government guerrilla movement in Malawi committed to the violent overthrow of the Banda regime.

The Malawi Freedom Movement (Mafremon, using Dar-Es-Salaam as its headquarters, has announced a liberation war against the “murderous, tyrannical dictatorship of Kamuzu Banda”.

At the beginning of last year Britain began training Mozambican officers at the Nyanga camp which had been established by the British army to run training courses for officers of the Zimbabwean army.

In November last year Britain disclosed it had sold 600 Enfield rifles and other military equipment to the Mozambican army.

It also announced that a British company employing former SAS troops — Defence Systems Ltd — had signed a contract to train a crack team of Mozambican soldiers to protect the Nacala railway line from Malawi to the Mozambique coast and to seek out and eliminate Renamo guerrillas.

The Soviet and East German-trained Mozambican army is the only army outside the Commonwealth to receive military aid and training from Britain.

The special bond between Britain and Mozambique can be traced back to former President Samora Machel’s key role in the Lancaster House settlement in Zimbabwe during Margaret Thatcher’s early days as Prime Minister.

The bond was further cemented during an official visit to Britain by the late President Machel in 1983 and subsequent meetings with Thatcher. The highlight of Machel’s visit was two days spent at the British army’s officer training base at Sandhurst.

The British government saw the signing of the Nkomati Accord in 1984 as a breakthrough in its diplomatic efforts to draw Mozambique further into the Western sphere of influence.

The apparent breach of the Nkomati Accord by SA has accelerated the process leading to the current shift in emphasis away from SA towards the Frontline states.

British aid to the Frontline states has been largely channelled through the 9-nation Southern Africa Development Coordination Conference (SADCC) which was established as the vehicle for reducing Frontline economic dependence on SA seven years ago.

In recent years, however, Britain has stepped up its modest bilateral aid to Mozambique which has increased from R5.4m in 1983 to R25.2m in 1985.

Britain also contributes to the Frontline states through its funding of Commonwealth and European Community initiatives in the region.
Mugabe, Chissano hold surprise security talks

VICTORIA FALLS — The Zimbabwean Prime Minister, Mr Robert Mugabe, and Mozambique’s president, Mr Joaquim Chissano, yesterday held surprise talks expected to focus on security issues.

Political sources told Reuters the one-day talks at a hotel close to the Zambezi river would centre on the security situation in neighbouring Mozambique, where several thousand Zimbabwean troops are backing government forces in a protracted civil war against right-wing rebels.

The Mozambican National Resistance (MNR), who have been supported by South Africa in the past, have intensified their guerrilla campaign in recent months and reported seizing several towns in central and northern areas.

This week they also said they had blown up a section of an oil pipeline linking Zimbabwe with the Mozambican port of Beira which is vital for this country’s fuel imports.

Safeguarding the oil pipeline and the parallel road and rail link to Beira has become an issue of paramount concern to land-locked Zimbabwe in the past six months as the black-ruled Frontline states of Southern Africa seek ways of joining international sanctions to force racial change in South Africa.

One source who asked not to be named said regional transport routes through Mozambique would be high on yesterday’s agenda. Most of South Africa’s black neighbours favour economic sanctions against Pretoria but have so far taken no action because their economies are heavily dependent on South Africa.

The talks, announced only two hours before Mr Mugabe flew from Harare to this northwestern resort town, are the latest in a series during the past three months among regional leaders to co-ordinate strategy in their opposition to Pretoria.

It was Mr Chissano’s first visit to Zimbabwe since becoming president 10 weeks ago.

His predecessor, Mr Samora Machel, was killed in a plane crash in October while flying home after a similar meeting in Zambia with the presidents of Angola, Zaire and Zambia.

The sources said yesterday’s meeting came only three days before Mr Mugabe will leave on a trip to China, North Korea and India.

They added that his talks in Peking and Pyongyang were also likely to centre on security issues and he may seek increased military aid from the two communist nations to help defend the Mozambican transport routes.

The political situation in South Africa, where Pretoria has recently tightened sweeping emergency powers after two years of virtually unabated unrest, was also to have been discussed yesterday, the sources said.

Mr Mugabe was heading a high-powered delegation which included his Transport, Trade and Foreign Ministers and Ministers of State for Defence and Security.

The delegation accompanying Mr Chissano included the newly appointed Transport and Communications Minister Mr Armando Guebuza and the Information Minister Mr Teodsta Hungana.

This week Mr Chissano accused South Africa of not honouring a peace accord signed by the two countries in 1984 in which they agreed not to support each other’s guerrilla foes.

But on Wednesday night, official Radio Mozambique reported a number of recent successes against the MNR, saying government troops had destroyed eight MNR camps in northern Niassa and Nampula provinces in December.

The Mozambican Prime Minister, Mr Mario Machungo, has told Parliament that bands were responsible for the deaths of 100,000 Mozambicans in recent years.

The Mozambican News Agency reported yesterday that the government uses for MNR guerrillas, who conduct attacks in many rural areas on villages, transport and electricity systems, and oil pipelines, has been stepped up.

A news agency reported the government had been referred to deaths since 1982 in guerrilla raids and in drought-stricken areas where bush warfare prevented the arrival of relief supplies.

South Africa, denying official involvement and asserting that it is honouring the pact, has accused Mozambique of breaking the agreement by continuing to help ANC militants seeking to overthrow white control in South Africa.

Mr Machungo said Mozambique had lost $5 billion as a result of South African actions meant to keep Mozambique economically weak.

The prime minister said South Africa reduced its use of Maputo’s port to 60,000 tons of cargo in 1985, from 6.8 million tons in 1973, two years before Mozambique became independent from Portugal.

He also said the number of Mozambican miners employed in South Africa dropped to 45,000 in 1982 — a sharp decrease from 50,000 in 1983.
Mugabe, Chissano in talks on 'SA security'

Own Correspondent

VICTORIA FALLS — Prime Minister Mr Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe and President Joaquin Chissano of Mozambique met here yesterday for lengthy talks on the security situation in SA and the ability of their economies to survive sanctions against SA.

It was their first meeting since Mr Chissano's appointment.

The two leaders were accompanied by their security, trade and transport ministers, appearing to confirm reports that the operation of the Beira Corridor lay at the heart of their discussions.

Zimbabwe is known to be increasingly worried by the mounting foreign exchange cost of its Rim-a-day military operation to keep the Corridor clear from interference by the Mozambican National Resistance. Deployment of more than 7,000 Zimbabwean troops is draining vitally needed reserves of export-oriented production in the business sector.

The Beira Corridor represents the only alternative to South African routes for Botswana, Zimbabwe and Zambia, but at present carries only 10% of Zimbabwe's world trade.

Since Mr Mugabe backed away in his New Year message from the immediate imposition of Zimbabwe's own sanctions against SA, there has been renewed speculation that he may soon announce limited measures, preserving his own credibility as one of the foremost black African advocates of comprehensive mandatory embargoes against Pretoria.

Speaking to reporters after the three-hour meeting, Mr Mugabe confirmed that the talks focused on defence and security and President Chissano said they had aimed at improving the joint struggle against the common enemy, South Africa.

Mr Mugabe flies next week to Delhi for the first consultative meeting of the Frontline States Solidarity Fund, established at last year's Non-Aligned Movement summit in Harare.
Expelled miners allowed to stay

By PHILIP VAN NIEKERK

In the face of strong protest from the Chamber of Mines, Pretoria has backed down on its hard-line decision to terminate the employment of all Mozambican workers on SA gold mines.

The Chamber and the Department of Manpower have arrived at an arrangement in which more than half the estimated 60,000 Mozambicans employed on the gold mines — the most skilled among them — will be able to renew their contracts.

However, the ban on recruiting novices still remains and tens of thousands of Mozambicans in the less skilled grades on the mines will have to return once their contracts expire.

A spokesman for the Chamber’s recruiting arm, the Employment Bureau of Africa (Eba), said the new arrangement was only temporary and that he hoped for a return to normality soon.

The decision to terminate the employment of Mozambicans was taken jointly on October 9 by the Ministers of Defence, Foreign Affairs, Manpower and Energy Affairs following the injury of six South African soldiers in a landmine explosion close to the Mozambican border.

The decision — which was taken without consultation with the mining industry — placed a ban on recruiting novices and forced all Mozambicans to return once their contracts expired.

The ban was aimed at destabilising Mozambique’s war-ravaged economy but at the same time threatened to harm production at a number of gold mines which were highly dependent on Mozambican labour.

Details of the new arrangement, concluded at a highly confidential meeting in December where the Chamber set out its strong reservations to the move, only became available this week. A letter from Dr Piet van der Merwe, the Director-General of Manpower, to the Chamber sets out the terms, which include:

- All workers in job categories four to eight will be allowed to renew their contracts. These are the most skilled categories and are dominated by Mozambicans.

Miners leaving their jobs at Beatrix gold mine this week. More than 3,000 workers — nearly half the black workforce — voluntarily quit the Gencor mine in the Orange Free State on Tuesday after a fight which left eight dead and 53 injured. The reasons behind subsequent resignations were eight brings to 118 the number of the past year as a result of mi
30,000 miners may be able to stay.

Foreign workers

- All workers in job categories one to three with service of longer than seven years will be able to renew their contracts.
- Mines where Mozambican workers comprise more than 20 percent of the workforce in grades one to three will be able to phase these workers out over three years.
- There is to be no further recruitment of novices from Mozambique.
- Provision is to be made for special cases, such as paraplegics, to be retained on compassionate grounds.

Van der Merwe told the *Weekly Mail* yesterday that "certain arrangements" had been necessary for workers with long service and those in the advanced job categories. He could not give a figure for the number of workers who would be able to renew their contracts, saying this figure would vary from mine to mine.

A Toba representative said it was impossible to know how many workers were involved because the numbers of workers in each category were only known at the mines themselves.

However, a recent analysis of skills of foreign mineworkers on the gold mines by International Labour Office researcher Foon de Vletter found that 59 percent of foreign workers were in grades four to eight, and that 71 percent of workers in these grades were foreign.

De Vletter's research was based on figures at the largest of the six mining houses, Anglo American, where Mozambican labour is proportionately low, but reflects averages for the entire industry.

The new arrangement is likely to provide some relief to economically-stratified Mozambique, which will now have more time to develop the alternative employment and rural development schemes.

However, according to De Vletter, the attrition of more experienced foreign workers is very high and thus will mean a sharp decrease in the percentage of foreigners generally over the next five years.

A National Union of Mineworkers representative said yesterday that the decision had come as no surprise.

"Had the government not rescinded this, the union would have gone ahead with the decision to table the matter at its forthcoming congress where a decision would definitely have been taken to take action," he said.

The representative said the union was not satisfied with the phasing out of workers in grades 1-3 and said the union believed Mozambican migrants contributed to the national wealth of South Africa and ought to be permitted to stay.
MAPUTO—Interest payments on Mozambique's foreign debt amounted to 200% of export earnings last year compared with 130% in 1985, Prime Minister Mr. Mario Machungo told Parliament yesterday.

Presenting the State central plan for 1987 to the People's Assembly, Mr. Machungo said the country's economy had been in steep decline since 1982, due mainly to South African destabilisation, largely through support for right-wing rebels who are waging a guerilla war across the country.

Mr. Machungo said South Africa's "undeclared war" had cost the country $6 billion (about R10 billion) and that more than 100,000 Mozambicans had lost their lives in the fighting.

He added that exports were at such a low level it was impossible for Mozambique to pay off its foreign debt and thus it would be difficult to obtain any new credits.

The Prime Minister, appointed to the new post last August to oversee the administration of the country, added that dependence on international donors will remain heavy.

"This means unfortunately that the success of the plan will depend on the arrival in due time of donations and credits," he said.

He gave no figures for export earnings or debt repayment.

The rural population, responsible for growing simple cereals of maize and rice and producing the main export commodities of cashew nuts, cotton and copra, had borne the brunt of the war, Mr. Machungo said.

"Economic recovery must begin in the countryside. Because it is only in the countryside that we can guarantee increased production of the raw materials for our industries and for export," he added.

The plan calls for 40,000 tons of rice and 40,000 tons of maize to be delivered to the State marketing authority this year, a 42% increase over last year.

The plan calls for sales of 45,000 tons of cashew nuts, up from 30,000 tons in 1986, and a steep rise in cotton sales from 5700 tons two years ago to 25,000 tons this year. The 1985 figures for the two crops are the latest available — (Sapa-Reuters)
MAPUTO — Government officials are the single biggest group of MPs in Mozambique's new Parliament, the People's Assembly. Statistics released yesterday in the People's Assembly by the National Elections Commission, disclosed that 28.1 percent of the newly elected MPs "work in the State apparatus".

Of the members, 21.7 percent are classified as "workers", 17.7 percent as "peasants", 16.9 percent as coming from defence and security forces and 16.6 percent as falling under other categories.

The report said the general elections held last year under the one-party Marxist political system in Mozambique "were a major defeat for the bandits and for those forces outside the country who are threatening our sovereignty and national independence".

It said Mozambique National Resistance rebels had tried to disrupt the voting. Some candidates had been murdered.

The war had made it impossible to hold elections in 20 districts and 64 "administrative posts". However, the elections had taken place successfully in the greater part of the Mozambican territory.
MAPUTO — Mozambique's new minister of foreign affairs, Dr Pascoal Mocumbi, is a veteran of the anti-colonial struggle who trained in medicine at the University of Lausanne in Switzerland.

Dr Mocumbi was born in 1941 and at Frelimo's first congress in 1962 — held in Dar Es Salaam before the war against Portugal started — he participated as a member of the leadership of the Mozambican student movement.

He was the first head of Frelimo's Information and Propaganda Department. After Mozambique's independence in 1975, Dr Mocumbi was first appointed provincial Director of Health in the central province of Sofala. In 1980 he was appointed minister of health.

He became a member of the Frelimo Party Central Committee at its fourth congress in 1983 and is a member of the People's Assembly, the Mozambican Parliament. Last week he was appointed a member of the Frelimo Party Secretariat as the new secretary for foreign relations.
Government agrees to deal

Reprieve for up to 30 000 Mozambicans

THE Chamber of Mines has negotiated a deal with government that will save the jobs of up to 30 000 of the more than 60 000 Mozambican miners whose employment was jeopardised by SA’s blanket ban on their labour.

The deal effectively saves the mining industry from potentially crippling manpower problems that would have arisen had the ban on Mozambican labour been unconditionally implemented.

Details of the various negotiations that led to the deal are unavailable. But it is likely government was convinced that the economic and production costs of the ban — in terms of foreign exchange and taxes from gold sales — outweighed any political advantage.

The details of the deal are contained in a letter, marked “strictly confidential”, from the Manpower Department to the chamber. The letter recently came into

ALAN FINE

Business Day’s possession. It is dated December 3 and follows intensive negotiations between the two.

Government imposed the ban last October after the injury of six soldiers in a landmine explosion on the Mozambican border. It barred the recruitment of new labour, while workers already employed could not have their contracts renewed upon completion.

In terms of the deal, the ban on the recruitment of “novices” remains. However, skilled and semi-skilled miners — those employed in job categories four to eight — are exempted from the ban. So are those in the unskilled categories with more than seven years’ experience on the mines.

Mines with more than 20% of Mozambican in their unskilled complement are

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Reprieve for Mozambicans

given three years to phase them out, and applications can be made for the retention of individuals on compassionate grounds in exceptional cases.

The letter says approval for these arrangements was given by Manpower Minister Piette du Plessis “on recommendation of the advisory committee for contract workers.”

Far more Mozambicans than any other group of black miners occupy skilled positions on mines. Natal University economist Alan Whiteside says Mozambicans tend to be career miners. He estimates the majority have had more than seven years’ service — whatever their job category.

Only one of the big six mining houses — JCI — had responded by last night to requests for statistics on how many of the 61 000 Mozambicans on chamber mines would be affected by the arrangement. The chamber, too, was unable to supply figures by then.

On JCI mines, 2 584 of the 4 165 Mozambicans — 62% — are employed in the skilled job categories. The proportion is possibly not quite that high throughout the industry, because JCI has not recruited Mozambicans in the last three years.

No JCI mines employ more than 20% of Mozambicans in their unskilled categories. The figure for unskilled miners with more than seven years’ experience is unavailable.

Manpower Director-General Piet van der Merwe has declined to comment on the letter — which was signed by him. He says, however, that whether the arrangement will be extended to non-chamber mines — where at least an additional 10 000 Mozambicans are employed — depends on “if they approach us and we can come to an arrangement.”

A chamber spokesman says the deal will “considerably ease the problems of those mines that employ a large proportion of Mozambicans, and will also benefit long-serving or highly skilled Mozambicans whose loyal and valued services might otherwise have been lost.”

The arrangement is aimed at “the minimum disruption to the livelihoods of the individuals concerned as well as the mines that employ them,” he says. He reiterates the chamber’s belief that the South African and Mozambican governments will resolve the differences,” that led to the ban.

A spokesman for the National Union of Mineworkers has called for the unconditional reversing of the ban.
Maputo gets blueprint to uplift economy

said Machungo had presented the programme for economic recovery with the aim of reactivating production and gradually reducing financial imbalances.

Machungo said the economy had grown steadily from 1977 to 1981 but had entered a sharp decline from 1982 onward, due mainly to SA's destabilisation policy through the MNR. He said the rural population had borne the brunt of the war. Bandits (official term for MNR rebels) had destroyed more than 500 health units, more than 300,000 children had been left without schools, and supplies of consumer goods had been disrupted.

The key priority in the recovery programme was to give incentives to peasant family production and efficient marketing of peasant surpluses. For the period 1987-1989, the government envisaged an average annual rise of 22% in marketed peasant produce, a 25% annual rise in the transport sector, an average annual rise of 12% in industrial production, and a more than doubling of income from exports and rail and port dues.

Machungo said in 1987 this income was expected to be $135m; the recovery programme planned to raise this to $390m in 1990. But a new pricing policy designed to make firms profitable, stimulate peasant production and increase reductions in real wages was necessary.

State intervention should fix prices for basic consumer goods and produce prices for the major crops.
Mugabe, Chissano meet on security

VICTORIA FALLS — Zimbabwean Prime Minister Robert Mugabe and Mozambican President Joaquim Chissano met here yesterday for lengthy talks on security and the ability of their economies to survive anti-SA sanctions.

Sources said Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda was originally expected to join Mugabe here. However, Kaunda has been increasingly preoccupied by internal problems since last month's food riots in the copper belt.

The two leaders were accompanied by their Security, Trade and Transport Ministers, appearing to confirm reports that the Beira corridor lay at the heart of their discussions.

Zimbabwe is known to be increasingly worried by the mounting foreign exchange cost of its 1tn-a-day military operation to keep the corridor clear of interference by the MNR.

Mugabe flies next week to Delhi for the first consultative meeting of the Frontline States Solidarity Fund, estab-

lished at last year's Non-Aligned Movement summit in Harare.

Fund chairman, Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi of India, has ruled out committing his country's troops to Mozambique, but Mugabe is expected to make renewed appeals on behalf of all six Frontline states for tangible internal support in Mozambique.

The Beira corridor represents the only practicable alternative to SA routes for Botswana, Zimbabwe and Zambia, but now carries only 10% of Zimbabwe's world trade.

Since Mugabe backed away in his New Year message from immediate imposition of Zimbabwean sanctions against SA, there has been renewed speculation that he may soon announce limited measures, preserving his credibility as one of the foremost black African advocates of comprehensive mandatory embargoes against Pretoria.
Chissano’s team

The Mozambican Cabinet reshuffle announced by President Joaquim Chissano last weekend foreshadows a wide-ranging package of economic measures expected to be announced at the end of the week.

A significant aspect of the reshuffle is the upgrading of the secretariat of labour to a fully fledged ministry. This seems to have been motivated by the need to create an infrastructure to cope with expected retrenchments of civil servants and employees of certain State-owned companies.

The retrenchment will result from a trimming of State departments and an end to State support for companies judged to be economically unsustainable.

A surprise appointment was Lt-General Armando Guebuza’s elevation to Minister of Transport. Guebuza, a member of Frelimo’s 10-man Political Bureau, is regarded as a strong ideologue. His nomination to head a technical ministry is perhaps explained by the importance of Mozambican railways and harbours to the Southern African Development Co-ordination Conference.

Specifically, there is an urgent need to speed up upgrading of the Mozambique transport network to cater for the needs of land-locked member states such as Zimbabwe and Zambia which now rely on South African railways and ports for most of their imports and exports. And these countries, of course, have threatened sanctions against Pretoria.

Guebuza, who has held various Cabinet...
Reds get Machel probe go-ahead

Four members of the Machel crash inquiry — Mr Pieter van Hoven, left, Mr Geoffrey Wilkinson, Mr Justice Cecil Margo and Sir Edward Evellegh

RUSSIAN and Mozambican representatives have been given the go-ahead to take part in the official Machel plane crash inquiry which starts in Johannes burg on Tuesday.

Representatives of the two countries met their SA counterparts in Pretoria this week to finalise the technical report on the October 19 air crash in which President Samora Machel and 33 passengers died.

The technical findings will be presented to the six-man tribunal which will begin sifting the evidence in the coming week. It is not known at this stage whether Russian and Mozambican delegates will attend the hearing, which could last several weeks.

But inquiry chairman Mr Justice Cecil Margo said this week: "They have been notified that they have the right to participate in the inquiry, either by counsel or by direct representation."

Cordial cooperation between the three countries involved has been a feature of the preliminary run-up to this week’s inquiry into the fate of the Soviet-built Tupolev 134 — despite initial Soviet and Mozambican charges that SA agents had been responsible for the disaster.

A SA aviation team was earlier this week received in Moscow where some consensus on technical data was reached in the weeks after the crash.

The hearing, which the inquiry team has pledged will be "open in every respect," is expected to exercise keen foreign media interest.

This is boosted by the presence on the panel of three influential international figures — Sir Edward Evellegh, a British Lord Justice of Appeal; Mr Geoffrey Wilkinson, Britain’s retired Chief Inspector of Accidents; and the Apollo 8 moonship commander, Colonel Frank Borman.

Col Borman was introduced by Mr Justice Margo this week as a world figure who belongs to the 20th Century and who has already seen our country in great dis-
Survivors might not testify in Machel crash inquiry

The Machel crash inquiry begins tomorrow, but there is still doubt whether any of the survivors will travel to Johannesburg to testify about the flight's last few minutes.

The chairman of the board of inquiry, Mr Justice CS Margo, said: "We would want them to testify, whether they will do so remains to be seen."

The Mozambican and Soviet representatives had been "in touch" with the board, but had not indicated whether they would take part in the inquiry.

The other members of the commission are Sir Edward Evellegh, a former British Lord Justice of Appeal, Mr Geoffrey Wilkinson, who recently retired as chief inspector of accidents in Britain's Department of Transport, Colonel Frank Borman, former astronaut and airline executive, Mr Jacques Gérinshays, former Commissioner for Civil Aviation, and Comair MD Mr Pieter van Hoven.

Although Mr Justice Margo would not reveal who would be testifying on the first day of the inquiry, it is expected that the technical crash investigation report will form the basis of the proceedings.
MNR ‘killed 116 soldiers’

LISBON. — Mozambican rebels said yesterday that they attacked seven military bases and killed 116 soldiers, including Tanzanians and Zimbabweans, as well as Cuban advisers, in fighting last week.

In a statement issued here, the rebels also said they downed a troop-carrying helicopter and cut traffic on a national road in the fighting between January 11 and 15.

The right-wing Mozambican National Resistance (MNR) said it suffered nine dead.

There was no immediate independent confirmation of the rebel claims or comment from the government in Maputo.

In two of the biggest attacks, in Sofala province, the MNR said it had stormed two joint government-Zambian-Tanzanian military bases in Zongoré and Manguena, killing 40 soldiers and capturing a “Cuban-trained” commander.

The statement said the MNR had “destroyed” 27 military vehicles, including three tanks and 17 transport trucks in the attacks, and shot down an Mi-8 helicopter near the town of Vila Nova de Andrada, “killing all aboard.”

In southern Maputo province, the MNR claimed it had attacked another five military bases, killing five “Cuban advisers and instructors,” 67 government troops and eight Tanzanian soldiers.

Also in the south, the MNR “ambushed and dispersed” a military column travelling north on the national road linking the capital Maputo to Vila da Manhiça, killing a Tanzanian battalion commander.

The MNR has fought against the Marxist government since independence from Portugal.
JOHANNESBURG.—There was a clear misunderstanding between the Maputo flight traffic controllers and the crew of President Samora Machel's aircraft, the crash inquiry heard when it opened today.

At the Rand Supreme Court, counsel for the court, Mr Cedric Puckrin, SC, said there was no technical failure and the aircraft continued to fly until the crash 200m inside the South African border at Komatipoort.

"There is no question of sabotage," he said.

The jet crashed on October 19 last year, killing President Machel and 56 others. Another man died in hospital later.

He added that post-mortem reports would show that the crew were healthy and not affected by alcohol.

He said "It is natural rubbish should abound such as it has in all air disasters. The publication of certain rubbish has made the inquiry difficult but I believe the evidence will dispel the rubbish."

Mr Puckrin said he had a number of statements which were translations of consultations with witnesses. Statements of the survivors were of little assistance, he said, but they had been told to fasten their seat belts.

Mr Puckrin said a vital aspect of the evidence was contained in a number of recordings, including the cockpit voice recorder and the Maputo control tower recording. These would be presented before the court.

Informed

He said South Africa, the Soviet Union and Mozambique were signatories to the convention signed in Chicago in 1944 which makes provision for the inquiry and they were entitled to representation at the inquiry.

Mr Puckrin said "They have been repeatedly informed that the board was sitting today and were informed of their rights but are not represented."

One of the six-member Commission of Inquiry, Sir Edward Eveleigh, said they were not obliged to attend.

The first witness, Mr Remer Willem van Zyl, director of aviation safety with the Department of Transport, told the inquiry he was told of the accident on October 20 at 7.20am. He immediately made arrangements to send investigators to the scene — Sapa.

The inquiry continues.
Crew told: 'There is no Maputo'
The aircraft crashed, to hear of the accident about 11pm, Mr Van Zyl said.

The first policeman arrived at the site at 11.45pm and the Komatiepoort district surgeon was the first medical person to arrive.

At 3.45am a helicopter and medical crew from Nelspruit air force base arrived and transported survivors to Nelspruit.

He said personnel based at the Mozambique Defence Force Camp, about 1km from the accident scene and directly underneath the aircraft’s flightpath, did not report the accident.

No representatives of the Mozambicans or Soviets were present in court yesterday despite being repeatedly informed of the date the inquiry began.

The only surviving crew member, flight engineer Vladimir Novoselov, will not testify before the inquiry as he is too ill to travel to SA, advocate Cedric Puckrin, SC, said yesterday.

Evidence from the investigating team showed that there was no question of sabotage or explosions having brought the aircraft down, and no technical failure, Mr Puckrin said.

The inquiry also heard that the visibility of runway lights appeared to create confusion between the Maputo air control tower and the crew of the jet.

Mr Van Zyl said the Maputo tower controller could see the runway lights and could thus have been confused at the aircraft crew’s repeated questions asking if they were working.

The Aircraft Accident Factual Report, agreed to by SA, Mozambique and the Soviet Union, containing all information collected since the crash and signed last Friday, was read to the commission yesterday.

At 7.17, four minutes before impact, the pilot told the crew “there is no Maputo” adding that there was no electrical power at destination.

The crew commented on the unserviceability of several important instruments.

A minute later the aircraft was cleared for an instrument landing system (ILS) approach to Maputo airport.

When the air traffic controller said the ILS was not operating, Maputo re-cleared the aircraft for a visual approach.

The pilot mentioned lights visible to the right of the aircraft and the co-pilot responded that the runway was not lit.

“What runway? What are you talking about? No, there’s nothing. Neitherrunwaynor city,” the pilot said to the Maputo air traffic controller a minute before the aircraft crashed.

The aircraft radio operator again asked Maputo to check the runway lights Maputo acknowledged the request and re-cleared the aircraft for a visual approach.

Ten seconds later the reserve fuel warning light illuminated. The navigator reported another 20km to go and again a request was made to Maputo to check the runway lights.

The descent continued and seconds later, with the aircraft 260m from the ground, the low proximity alarm sounded.

Maputo re-cleared the flight after which the radio operator asked again if the runway lights were out of service. Maputo asked him to confirm that they were out of service and he replied they were not in sight.

“At no stage did the AFIS (Advisory Flight Information Service) operator actually inform CAA (the jet) that the runway lights were working,” the court room, crowded with journalists, heard.

The last words recorded by the Cockpit Voice Recorder on October 19 at 7.21.56 — three seconds before impact — were the pilot and the navigator saying there was no instrument landing system, no beacons and “nowhere to go.”

Survivors were told to fasten seatbelts for landing about 7pm but were told no more.

Autopies found no alcohol in the crew’s systems except that from natural decomposition.
Board's job will not be to apportion any blame.

The most politically sensitive accident inquiry in the history of South African civil aviation begins in the Rand Supreme Court today.

The aim of the board of inquiry will not be to apportion blame for the disaster in which President Samora Machel of Mozambique died on October 19, but to establish the cause to prevent a recurrence and future loss of life.

The hearing, expected to last about three weeks, will be conducted according to established procedures recommended by the International Civil Aviation Organisation.

A large media contingent, both local and international, is expected to attend the public hearing. The chairman of the board of inquiry, Mr Justice C Margo, has said he will strive to avoid in-camera evidence.

Although the bulk of the evidence will be presented by the board's counsel, Mr Cedric Puckrin, SC, anyone with relevant information will be able to testify.

The inquiry will be conducted according to the inquisitorial method with commission members playing an active role in questioning witnesses. Visual evidence will include.

- Transcripts of the cockpit voice recorder and the two flight-data recorders — the "black boxes".

Survivors' statements:

- The findings of post-mortem examinations on the 34 accident victims.
- Statements by the survivors. It is not known whether any will testify before the inquiry.
- Statements by air traffic controllers in South Africa and Mozambique.
- Testimony by the Soviet manufacturers on the performance of the Tupolev 134-A aircraft.
- The technical accident report, which will include all the above, as well as reports on the actual state of the aircraft and its avionics equipment, weather conditions on the night of the crash and the navigational equipment along the aircraft's flight path.

When President Machel's aircraft crashed in South Africa on route from Lusaka to Maputo, many claims were made about the cause.

The most disturbing accusation was that South Africa had brought down the aircraft either by missile or small arms fire or by electronically "flying" the aircraft off route.

A board member, Colonel Frank Borman, of the United States, has said he is confident the board will be able to determine the cause of the crash.
Mozambique MPs oppose draft law

MAPUTO — For the first time in the history of the Mozambican Parliament, the People's Assembly — several MPs yesterday voted against a draft law.

Of the 249 members, 43 voted against or abstained on the article on the law on health care concerning hospital charges for students over 18 dependent on parents.

Former Health Minister and current Foreign Minister, Dr Pascoal Mucumbu, argued that such charges be paid by employers of parents. This won the majority vote.

Mr Marcelino dos Santos, the Mozambican Parliament chairman, saying the programme for economic recovery and the fight against rebels were inseparable, accused South Africa of being behind activities of the Mozambique National Resistance movement.
Russian aircrew swear words must be deleted

The Argus Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — The board of inquiry into the Machel air crash has ruled that the expletives and profanities of the Soviet pilot and crew during the flight may not be published.

The voices of the captain, 48, co-pilot, 29, flight engineer, 37, navigator, 48, and radio operator, 48, were picked up on three channels of the cockpit voice recorder. All the cockpit conversation was in Russian but English was spoken when communicating with air traffic control at Maputo Airport.

The language used by the crew was such that when the recorder was decoded the Russians expressed embarrassment that a woman interpreter, Miss H Nowack of Unisa's department of Russian language and literature, was forced to listen to it.

Board chairman Mr Justice Cecil Margo approved an application to ban the publication of the expletives.

EXPERIENCED

The transcript of the recordings released to the media is littered with the term "strong expression". A remark made about the air hostess has also been censored.

The inquiry has heard that the crew, Soviet employees on contract to the Mozambican government, were experienced in day and night flying in Mozambique's airspace, including landing at Maputo.

They were all properly licensed. They were in good health and able to cope with normal duties during the flight.

No trace of alcohol was found in the bodies of the captain and co-pilot.

There were traces in the bodies of the navigator (0.01gm in 100ml of blood) and the radio operator (0.02gm).

However, South African pathologist Dr Jurie Nel said the alcohol concentration could have resulted due to decomposition after death.

‘Important new facts’ on crash, claims news agency

Argus Africa News Service

MAPUTO. — The Mozambican news agency, Aim, has said it had been told by a reliable Mozambican source that “important new facts” had arisen concerning the crash.

Aim said it had been told that up to now these facts had not been known and "they would probably imply that Mozambique will demand the continuation of the investigation".

Aim added, "The source did not give details of these new discoveries but said that it would now be premature to consider that the first phase of the work of the tripartite commission of inquiry was concluded."

Board members

The chairman of the board is Mr Justice C S Margo. The other members are Sir Edward Eveleigh, a former British Lord Justice of Appeal; Colonel Frank Borman, former astronaut and airline executive, Mr Geoffrey Wilkinson, retired British chief inspector of accidents, Mr Jacques Germahys, former commissioner for civil aviation, and Comair managing director Mr Pieter van Hoven.
FIFTY-SEVEN foreigners taken prisoner by right-wing Mozambican rebels have been handed over to the Red Cross, whose officials are expecting that most will be released.

Malawi's official news agency, Mana, said 43 Portuguese, 10 Pakistanis, two Mauritanians and two Cape Verdians were handed over in the rebel-held town of Milango near the Malawi-Mozambique border although the International Committee of the Red Cross said the captives were released at the border.

The hostages were later brought to the southern Malawi city of Blantyre by the Red Cross. The said that all but two Mauritians—a father and son who wanted to go to Portugal—would be repatriated.

In Geneva, the ICRC said it expected another group of eight captives—a Briton, two Portuguese, a West German and his wife and daughter—to be released later this week.

But Mana quoted Christopher Soares, the MNR's so-called Health Minister, as saying that Briton Ian Robertson, who was freed only when Britain negotiated directly with the rebels, would not be freed.

Robertson was captured last month. Some of those freed this week had been held for more than a year.

MNR, Mozambique has frequently charged that Malawi is aiding the MNR, which has been helped by South Africa. Malawi has denied the accusation.

Last year, the MNR freed several foreigners into Malawi, prompting observant ions by neighbouring African states that the rebels appeared to have good contacts with President Kamuzu Banda's government.

The MNR, demanding general elections and the dissolution of Mozambique's armed forces, had vowed to intensify its war since the death in a plane crash of President Samora Machel.

Machel was succeeded by Foreign Minister Joaquim Chissano, who has pledged to rid Mozambique of the rebels he accuses of killing tens of thousands of civilians and crippling the economy. —Sapa.
Pilot ‘failed to file flight plan’

Dianna Games

Rener Van Zyl, of the crash investigation team, said the team was asked by police to stay away from the crash site until the political aspects had been cleared up.

Air searches for the missing aircraft began from Maputo an hour after the last radio contact, and a marine search

Machel inquiry hears evidence

was carried out in Maputo Bay.

A police warrant officer was the first person outside Mbumi, where the aircraft crashed, to hear of the accident. He heard about it at about 11pm, Van Zyl said.

The first policeman arrived at the site at 11.40pm and the Komati poort district surgeon was the first medical person to arrive.

At 3.45am a helicopter and medical crew from Roedespuit Air Force Base arrived and transported survivors to Nelspruit.

He said personnel at the Mozambique Defence Force camp, about 1km from

the accident scene and directly underneath the aircraft’s flight path, did not report the accident.

The only surviving crew member, flight engineer Vladimir Novoselov, will not testify before the inquiry as he is too ill to travel to SA, advocate Cedric Peckman, SC, said yesterday.

Evidence from the investigating team showed that there was no question of sabotage or explosions having brought the aircraft down, and no technical failure, Peckman said.
Court listens to last minutes of plane's flight

By Zenaide Vendeiro and Clare Robertson

The crew of the doomed Mozambique presidential aircraft were tuned into a Russian radio broadcast when they made contact with Maputo Airport for the first time, the commission of inquiry heard yesterday.

A packed courtroom listened to part of the cockpit voice recording and heard opera music over the captain's channel. The recording became indistinct, with cracking and hissing, when the co-pilot's channel and the area microphone in the cockpit were played simultaneously with the music.

The co-pilot was still listening to the radio when the aircraft began a descent and turned to the right. This action was taken immediately after Maputo tower instructed them to report at 3,000 feet or when they had the runway lights in sight.

The co-pilot was listening to a news report on the radio, having turned the communication with the captain right down. "He was not listening to the pilot," Colonel Des Lynch, SAAF Senior Staff Officer, Flying Efficiency, told the court.

Using the aircraft's instrument panels and transcripts of the "black boxes", Colonel Lynch led the commission through the flight's last moments. He dealt at length with the fuel situation.

Colonel Lynch said that after making contact with Maputo tower, the captain began a lengthy anecdote about a colleague who was "a pain in the neck to fly with".

The anecdote demonstrated the captain had considered a 25-minute fuel reserve adequate on a flight from Milan to Lenigrad. "There was stress in the cockpit and concern about fuel. He told three different stories about fuel situations to justify his actions."

The captain continued his fuel anecdote for about four minutes and then, as if to make his point, said of the fuel warning light: "Look! It does not light up for the descent," and used foul language. He was referring to the instrument's inaccuracy during descent.

The reserve fuel warning light illuminated once in the descent and then continuously for about two minutes before impact.

Colonel Lynch had established from the Soviet controller at Maputo that the captain did not have a record of bad fuel management.

The controller also confirmed that the alternative destination, if the aircraft was not able to land at Maputo, was Berra. "The plane did not have nearly enough fuel left to do this," said Colonel Lynch.

The crew was also concerned about the VOR (VHF Omni Range) lights on the centre panel. This navigational aid, said the Colonel, could have been giving the wrong reading because of a broken bulb on one of the four lights.

No flight plan was filed nor was fuel provision made for an alternative destination. The commission heard this was not uncommon with presidential flights.

Earlier, the commission heard that there was no question of sabotage or explosions having brought down the aircraft. Neither were the crew incapacitated in any way.

The crew ignored the ground proximity warning system, which went off 37 seconds before the aircraft collided with the ground. Had the crew levelled off when the alarm sounded, disaster could have been averted, the commission heard.

See Page 2.

Maputo snubs inquiry

The Star's Africa News Service

MAPUTO — Mozambique said yesterday that it would not attend the inquiry into the plane crash that killed President Samora Machel because investigations were not finished.

The country's ruling Frelimo party has asked the South Africans to continue technical investigations with Mozambique and the Soviet Union.

A few hours previously, the Mozambique News Agency, AIM, said it had been told by a reliable Mozambican source that "important new facts" had arisen concerning the crash.

The Soviet Union delegation investigating the accident had a reservation about the factual report signed by it and the Mozambique and South African delegations last Friday, the commission heard yesterday.

In an annexure to the report, the Soviets said that an analysis and conclusions should have been made from the factual report, and included in the report.

Neither the Soviet Union nor Mozambique will be represented at the inquiry.
Machel death inquiry begins

There was a clear misunderstanding between the Maputo flight traffic controllers and the flight crew of President Samora Machel's plane at the time of the accident, said counsel for the public, Mr Cedric Pakrin, SC, in the Machel Inquiry which opened yesterday at the Rand Supreme Court.

He said there was no technical failure and the plane continued to fly until the collision 200 m inside the South African border at Komatspoort.

"There is no question of sabotage," he said.

Mr Pakrin said he had a number of unsworn statements which were translations of consultations with witnesses. Statements of the survivors were of little assistance, he said, but they had been instructed to fasten their seatbelts.

Mr Pakrin said a vital aspect of the evidence was contained in a number of recordings, including the cockpit voice recorder and the Maputo Control Tower recording.

SAPA

These would be presented before the court.

The first witness to testify was the director of aviation safety with the South African Department of Transport, Mr Renier Willem van Zyl.

The pilot and co-pilot of the presidential plane transporting President Machel and Frelimo officials to Mozambique showed no sign of alcohol or any other untoward substance in their blood, Mr van Zyl said.

This was the post-mortem finding of the medico-legal examination on the bodies of four flight crew mem-

To Page 2

Board focuses on talk between crew and flight control

JOHANNESBURG.—Evidence in the Machel air-crash inquiry today was expected to concentrate on the conversation between the four crew members and Maputo air traffic control.

Colonel Desmond Lynch of the South African Air Force, who made an analysis of the cockpit voice recorder, said yesterday in the Rand Supreme Court where the inquiry board is sitting, the four were listening to Soviet music and news broadcasts shortly before the crash at Komatipoort on October 19 last year.

At one stage, he said, the captain told his colleagues a long story about a flight he was on when he was left with very little fuel but landed safely.

Colonel Lynch said this may have indicated the captain was trying to justify the Machel aircraft having little fuel left.

At 7.09pm, 10 minutes before impact, the captain said: "Look, there is no indication (of minimum fuel) during the descent."

A few minutes later, as they descended further, the minimum fuel warning light came on.

Colonel Lynch said there appeared to be "some stress" in the cockpit. The captain was worried about fuel. — Sapa.

JOHANNESBURG — There was no question of sabotage in the air crash which killed President Samora Machel of Mozambique on October 19 last year, the board of inquiry into the crash was told yesterday.

Seventeen Freilimo officials and 18 others also died in the accident on the Mozambican border with South Africa.

There was a misunderstanding between the Maputo flight traffic controllers and the flight crew, said the board of inquiry's counsel, Mr Cedric Fickman.

Autopsies on the crew, he said, would reveal that they were not debilitated in any way by alcohol or drugs.

There was silence when the director of aviation safety, Mr Renier van Zyl, for the Directorate of Civil Aviation gave an account of the flight's last few minutes.

"What runway? What are you talking about? There's nothing more to it," the pilot of President Machel's plane said to the Maputo flight radio operator a minute before the aircraft crashed.

At about 7 pm on October 19, Maputo Advisory Flight Information Service (AFIS) cleared the plane for landing and instructed the crew to "report at 3,000 feet or runway lights in sight."

The co-pilot, piloting the plane, executed a right turn and during the descent the reserve fuel warning light illuminated.

"There is no Maputo," the pilot informed the crew.

The plane continued descending.

At 7:21 pm the AFIS requested the pilot to confirm that the runway lights were out of service. The crew replied that the lights were not in sight.

The last words recorded by the cockpit voice recorder were the pilot and navigator saying there were "no instrument landing service, no non-directional beacons and nowhere to go."

Neither the Soviet Union, where the aircraft was manufactured, nor Mozambique were represented at the inquiry.

In terms of the 1944 Chicago convention, the state of manufacture and registry of the plane (USSR and Mozambique respectively) were entitled to representation.

The factual report by South African and international experts, which formed the basis of the inquiry, was also agreed to by the USSR but subject to two additions. Mr van Zyl, who investigated the accident, told the board.

He said the Soviet delegation, acting in terms of annexure 13 of the Chicago Convention, considered that the analyses and conclusions "should be developed and added to the factual report."

Mr van Zyl said the pilot, co-pilot, flight engineer and navigator held valid licences.

The weather was fine and the pilot of a Boeing 707 which landed at Maputo at 4 pm reaffirmed this. The accident took place at night, a few minutes before moonrise.

When the crew was unable to see the runway lights, the radio operator asked the AFIS operator to "check" the runway lights.

The AFIS operator responded with a clearance for a visual approach and increased the intensity of the runway lights.

At no stage did the AFIS operator actually inform CAAC that the runway lights were working, "the court room, crowded with journalists, heard.

South African accident investigators arrived at the scene of the crash the next day, October 20, at 8:30 am but because of an "emotionally charged atmosphere" were not allowed at the site.

"The President of Mozambique had been killed. The police were there in full force, Mr Pik Botha was there and Mozambican delegates were there. We were told not to proceed to the site until the political situation had cleared up," Mr van Zyl said.

See also page 9.
Court hears evidence on crash

Maputo runway lights not visible to Tupolev crew

The question of the visibility of runway lights appeared to cause confusion between the Maputo air control tower and the crew of the Tupolev jet which crashed in SA last October, killing 34 people.

A crash investigation team-member, Rener van Zyl of SA's Directorate of Civil Aviation, said the Maputo tower controller could have been confused by the crew's repeated questions asking if the runway lights were working.

The Aircraft Accident Factual Report, agreed to by SA, Mozambique and Russia, containing all information collected since the crash and signed last Friday, was read in the Rand Supreme Court yesterday.

At 9.17pm, just four minutes before impact, the pilot told the crew "There is no Maputo", adding there was no electrical power at destination. The crew commented on the unserviceability of several important instruments.

A minute later the aircraft was cleared for an instrument landing system (ILS) approach to Maputo airport.

When the aircraft radio operator said the ILS was not operating, Maputo re-cleared the aircraft for a visual approach.

The pilot mentioned lights visible to the right of the aircraft and the co-pilot responded that the runway was not lit.

About a minute from impact the aircraft radio operator again asked Maputo to check the runway lights. Maputo acknowledged the request and re-cleared the aircraft for a visual approach.

Ten seconds later the reserve fuel warning light came on. The navigator reported another 20km to the airport and again a request was made to Maputo to check the runway lights.

The descent continued and seconds later, with the aircraft just 768 ft from the ground, the terrain proximity alarm sounded.

Maputo re-cleared the flight, after which the radio operator asked again if the runway lights were working. In response to a question from Maputo, he replied they were not visible.

The last words recorded by the cockpit voice recorder on October 19 at 9.21.36pm — three seconds before impact — were those of the pilot and the navigator saying there was no instrument landing system, there were no beacons and nowhere to go.

Survivors were asked to fasten seatbelts for landing at about 9pm but were told no more and were not warned of the drama on the flight deck, Van Zyl said.

Autopsies found no alcohol in the crew's bodies.

Van Zyl said the aircraft had not refuelled before leaving Mbala, Zambia, and had insufficient fuel — 2.59 kg — to divert to Beira, the nearest alternative airport.
‘Tired’ pilots ‘overlooked warnings’

Own Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG — During his second day of evidence to the Machel crash inquiry, Colonel Desmond Lynch, of the SA Air Force, said the plane crew showed signs of fatigue shortly before impact and overlooked several warning signs.

Col Lynch has made an intense study of the cockpit voice recorder.

Quoting from the National Transportation Safety Board report, he said pilots became more fatigued and more willing to accept lower standards towards the end of a flight.

Although “nothing worked”, the crew still believed they were following the right course.

The plane did not pick up the flashing beacons at Maputo airport and they did not switch to radio to assist them through terrain.

Col Lynch said that to add to the confusion, the traffic controller said when the pilot asked him to “check runway lights”, he (the controller) understood it to mean the runway lights were in sight.

The traffic controller said he did not understand it to mean the pilot could not see the runway lights and was asking him to check if they were working.

Col Lynch said that on the pilot’s second request to “check runway lights”, he (the controller) interpreted it to mean the pilot had seen the lights but wanted them improved.

The traffic controller turned the runway lights off and turned them up again full.

Col Lynch said that the co-pilot, who appeared to be piloting the plane, was listening to the radio four minutes before the crash and did not hear the captain say “There is no Maputo.”

There were a few seconds of silence before the co-pilot said “What?”

“There is no Maputo,” the captain repeated.

“There to the right, there are lights,” the co-pilot said.

Four passengers at the back right-hand side of the plane were discussing the lights amongst themselves and thought they were over the sea looking at two villages inland.

They became worried when they didn’t see Maputo, they told Col Lynch later in an interview.

Machel crash probe told of ‘missing list’

JOHANNESBURG — A checklist found at the scene of the Machel aircraft crash mysteriously disappeared from where it was hidden by a South African investigator.

Mr Pieter de Klerk, a chief investigator with the Directorate of Civil Aviation Department of Transport, told the Machel inquiry yesterday that he and his team arrived at Komatipoort on October 20, the day after the crash.

Delegates from the Soviet Union, manufacturers of the Tupolev 134A, arrived on October 24.

He said they were prevented from carrying out their normal duties on the first day because “the police were still removing bodies from the site.”

‘Hidden under table’

The South Africans completed the first stage of investigation “doing observations and taking records, but nothing was disturbed until the other delegations arrived.”

Mr De Klerk said “We then started the investigation together, one team surveying the site and another the setting up of the cockpit, panel and instruments.”

The same day a checklist, among other documents, was found and was hidden under a table in our tent it disappeared during the day.”

Mr De Klerk did not say why it was necessary to hide the document or what it contained.

The rest of the documents and personal belongings were collected by the Soviet delegation with, according to police at the site, the Foreign Minister’s permission.

Mr De Klerk said several instruments were sent to the South African Bureau of Standards to establish the exact frequency selections at impact.

“There is nothing unusual in the SABS having found that the settings were not those at the point of first impact,” Mr De Klerk said.

The investigator showed the council room a horrific video of the wreckage and mutilated bodies, including that of President Samora Machel. The former president was identified by his teeth.

The former head of air traffic control at London’s Heathrow Airport, Mr Michael Perry, said that although the Maputo air traffic controller had grave difficulty in comprehending the English language, his performance during the incident “remained at a very good standard of phraseology.”

The aircraft, having not filed a flight plan, arrived on the controller’s frequency with no prior warning, but he adequately received the information from the plane and proceeded with landing instructions, Mr Perry said.

The weather was calm and “the operator had no radar and no direction-finding equipment and relied on the pilot’s report,” he said.

Commenting on the non-licensing of the traffic controller, Mr Perry said “having carried out to satisfaction a course in aerodrome control”, he was capable of performing his duties.

— Sapa

Maputo awaits 3-nation probe

MOZAMBIQUE has refused to participate in the South African judicial inquiry into the aircraft crash which killed President Samora Machel on the grounds that an international commission of inquiry into the disaster has not completed its work.

The ruling Frelimo government made the claim last night although Mozambique and the Soviet Union signed the completed accident factual report on Friday.

The claim is in line with a Soviet addendum to the accident report which argues that analysis and conclusions should be added to the report by the same commission.

The addendum said analysis and conclusions should be agreed to on a trilateral basis by the states which took part in the investigation — South Africa, Mozambique and the Soviet Union.

Any other procedure or elaboration of the report contradicted international law and could not be accepted by the Soviets, it said.

The Frelimo political bureau said after a meeting on Tuesday that it had instructed the commission’s own inquiry commission to propose to SA that the trilateral commission of inquiry’s work should continue until the completion of the investigation of the facts.

The commission’s work has so far included listening to a tape of the conversation between the aircraft and Maputo control tower, decoding the aircraft’s flight recorders and compiling a factual report.

The Soviet delegation has also decided not to attend the hearing which began in Johannesburg’s Rand Supreme Court on Tuesday.

It is unclear whether the Mozambican position is also related to “important new facts” about the crash which the Mozambican news agency AIM said had been released by a “reliable Mozambican source”, also on Tuesday.

AIM said the source did not give details of these new discoveries.

— Own Correspondent and Sapa
In courtroom, Crash Re-enacted

Incorrect Phrasology used.

Expert explains confused exchange over Maputo Runway lights.
Machel died immediately:
Evidence scotches rumours

The Argus Correspondent

Johannesburg — President Samora Machel of Mozambique died instantly in the aircraft crash which claimed his and 33 other lives in October last year.

The commission of inquiry into the crash, which is sitting in the Rand Supreme Court, was today addressed by Professor Jurie Nel, head of forensic medicine at the University of Natal.

"There is no way he (President Machel) could have survived the accident.

"Most of the skull and the whole brain was absent. The heart and lungs were not present," Professor Nel said.

The violence of the impact had opened the President's chest.

Reported allegations that President Machel was alive for about four hours after the Tupolev-134A, crashed into a Kangwane hillside were "not true''.

Neither dental records nor fingerprints of President Machel were made available to Professor Nel.

Apart from the fact that he was told that this was his body and that he found a ring engraved with Mrs Machel's name, he had no way of confirming that the body he examined was that of President Machel.

Mrs Linda Roach, a forensic analyst with the Department of Health, told the inquiry that only a low concentration of alcohol had been found in the blood samples taken from the bodies of the co-pilot and radio operator.

The alcohol concentration may have been a result of endogenous ethanol formation due to decomposition changes, it was surmised.

More reports — Page 5.
PRETORIA — The late President Samora Machel was one of those nominated as a newsmaker of the Year by members of the Pretoria Press Club this year.

But the nomination was invalid — as were nominations for Nelson Mandela — because a club regulation states that recipients of the award should be able to physically accept it at a banquet in Pretoria.

Other nominees this year included Archbishop Desmond Tutu, the NGK's Dominee Johannes Heyns and the Hoëwowsky family.

The Bureau for Information is also believed to be a strong contender for the award, which is to be conferred later this year.

— Sapa
Documents removed from site — witness

By Zenaide Vendeiro and Claire Robertson

Important documents and personal belongings of the Machel crash victims had been removed from the site by police on instructions of the South African Foreign Minister, Mr Pik Botha, and the then Mozambique Minister of Security, Colonel Sergio Vieira, a senior accident investigator told the commission of inquiry yesterday.

Mr Pieter de Klerk, senior investigator with the Directorate of Civil Aviation, told the court he and his senior, Mr Ben Jordaan, had gone to Komatiport on the morning of October 20.

However, Mr Jordaan had been unable to proceed to the site as Mr Botha had asked him to vacate a seat on the aircraft.

When he arrived at the scene, police were busy removing the bodies "and I could not begin with the investigation" (Mr Ranier van Zyl, chief of aviation safety, has testified that normal investigation procedures could not be followed on the first day "due to the decisions and actions in the emotionally charged situation").

Mr de Klerk said he saw policemen gathering items from the site and asked one what they were doing. The policeman replied Mr Botha and the Mozambique Minister for Security had given them permission to collect important documents and personal belongings.

Mr de Klerk said he had made a survey of the crash site and had taken readings of the cockpit instruments before the aircraft's Soviet manufacturers arrived on Friday, October 22.

He had also found fuel invoices and "a checklist". This checklist later disappeared.

The navigational instruments were sent to the S.A. Bureau of Standards to establish the exact frequency selections at the time of impact.

The SABS concluded that, as the accident had involved several impacts, the readings registered may have changed.

In reply to Mr Cedric Puckrin, counsel for the commission, he said it was not unusual that the settings or selections on the instruments were not those perceived to be at the point of impact.

A video taken by an SAP unit after the crash, showing the position of the wreckage and the mutilated bodies, was shown.

● See Page 11.
Machiel identified by teeth — and a bracelet.
Mutilated bodies and wreckage shown on video

The Argus Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG — A video showing aircraft wreckage and mutilated bodies, including that of Mozambican President Samora Machel, was stopped after 10 minutes by commission chairman Mr Justice Cecil Margo who said the board had "seen enough".

The last few minutes of the aircraft crash that killed 34 people were re-lived in the Rand Supreme Court yesterday as the inquiry heard the "black box" recordings and watched the video made by a police team about 14 hours after the crash.

On the tape recording of the last minutes before impact, the voices of the crew could be heard discussing the "failure" of several navigational instruments.

Although the devices were "serviceable", at that stage they believed "nothing (in the cockpit) was working", Colonel Desmond Lynch of the South African Air Force said.

They misinterpreted or ignored their navigational instruments, Colonel Lynch said.

Although their terrain proximity warning system had warned in the cockpit for several minutes before impact, the crew made no attempt to slow the rate of descent.

The joint report by Soviet Union, Mozambican and South African investigators differed on this point, Colonel Lynch said, one channel of the recording having indicated a decrease in the rate of descent.

However, "the crew did nothing to slow the rate of descent and only turned right into South African territory minutes before the crash."

They said they believed the aircraft was following the Mozambican coastline before turning right towards Maputo.

Colonel Lynch explained that when they flew from Maputo to Mozambique, they noticed a "marked contrast between the darkness on the Mozambique side of the border and light on the South African side".

The border created the illusionary effect of a coastline.

This could have been why the radio operator asked for right-hand approach to the air port, believing they were to the left of Maputo, he said.

Air controller 'confused'

The Argus Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG — A top air traffic control expert testified that the confusion which played a part in the Machel aircraft crash may have been due to the Russian radio operator having departed from the correct phraseology in communicating with the Maputo tower.

The role of the Maputo air traffic controller in a confused exchange between the Tupolev TU-134A and the tower over runway lights has been highlighted in several television and press reports.

Confused

Mr Michael Perry, a former chief air traffic control officer at London's Heathrow Airport, told the board of inquiry that the Maputo controller became confused when the Russian asked him to "check" whether the runway lights were working.

The controller replied in the affirmative, apparently believing the Russian had stated the lights were working.

Mr Perry said it would have been preferable to phrase the query about the runway lights like this "Confirm runway lights serviceable".

He pointed out that the purpose of using standard phraseology in aircraft communications was to avoid ambiguity.

This was even more important when both parties were not speaking in their own language, as was the case in the exchange between the Russian and the Portuguese-speaking controller.

Until the departure from standard terminology the controller had used "good, crisp phraseology, and Mr Perry said the standard of the controller's phraseology dropped only after the Russian's query, he said.

In the log, in which the controller had the benefit of hindsight, he wrote about the "runway lights" exchange. "The pilot again reported 'Check runway lights out of service'".

R/O "Affirmative, lights out in sight".

Controller "Affirmative (followed by approach instructions)"

They said they believed the aircraft was following the Mozambican coastline before turning right towards Maputo.

Colonel Lynch explained that when they flew from Maputo to Mozambique, they noticed a "marked contrast between the darkness on the Mozambique side of the border and light on the South African side".

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This could have been why the radio operator asked for right-hand approach to the air port, believing they were to the left of Maputo, he said.

'Radio signals didn't come from Maputo'

Angus Africa News Service

MAPUTO — The aircraft carrying President Samora Machel of Mozambique was following radio signals which did not come from Maputo, its chairman of the board of inquiry, General Armstrong Guebuza, said here.

General Guebuza, also Mozambique's Minister of Transport, said last night that it was crucial to discover whether the signals from the VOR (voltage, high frequency omnidirectional radio) were genuine or not.

The factual report prepared by the tripartite commission (South Africa, Mozambique and the Soviet Union) already contains the information that the aircraft was following such radio signals which were not that of Maputo. It was the VOR that was the origin of the fatal turn of the aircraft "away from its normal route", General Guebuza said.

He said that from these radio signals others that preceded the crash and that will be difficult to explain if this is not properly investigated and clarified.
SA border lights may have misled crash crew

SUSAN RUSSELL

The Soviet radio operator on the ill-fated flight in which Mozambique's President Samora Machel died could have requested clearance for a right down-wind landing because he mistook the SA border for the Mozambican coast.

Colonel Desmond Lynch of the SA Air Force told the board of inquiry into the crash that the contrast between the lights on the SA side of the border and the darkness on the Mozambican side created the impression of a coastline.

In evidence in the Rand Supreme Court in Johannesburg yesterday, Lynch said he had experienced this illusion himself.

He told the board that many of the survivors were 'sitting on the right-hand side of the aircraft and had been confused about where they were.

'It appears that the witnesses thought they were over the sea and had the coastline on their right side,' he said.

Lynch read from an interview with the air traffic controller at Maputo airport.

The controller said he had switched on the runway lights after crew in the the Soviet-built Tupolev had asked him repeatedly to check the runway.

Lynch said, in his opinion, the controller had understood the crew could see the runway lights because the radio operator had used the word 'check'.

Lynch was asked why he thought the radio operator and not the captain had asked for clearance.

He said he had asked the chief of Soviet flight operations in Maputo the same question.

He could not give an explanation as to why the operator should change from right to left on his own instruction without any reference to the captain.

Lynch said it was difficult to say who was in charge.

The board of inquiry, chaired by Mr Justice C Margo, continues today.

Maputo signed crash report

DIANNA GAMES

MOZAMBIQUE, which claims the investigation into the crash which killed President Samora Machel is incomplete, signed the final accident factual report along with the Soviet Union and SA last Friday.

The report, containing comprehensive details of the three-month investigation, has been read out in the Rand Supreme Court.

Mozambique's claim comes in the wake of a move by the Soviet delegation which, in an addendum to the report, said analysis and conclusions should be added to the accident report by the same

investigation commission.

It said the analysis and conclusions must be agreed to on a trilateral basis by the states which took part in the investigation. Any other procedure or elaboration of the report contravened international rules, the Soviets said.

The Frelimo political bureau said after a meeting on Tuesday — the first day of the Board's hearing in SA — it had instructed the Mozambican inquiry commission to propose to SA that the trilateral commission of inquiry's work continue until the completion of the investigation of the facts.
Machel witness rejects ‘decoy’ beacon theory

By JO-ANN BENKER

STARTLING information before the Margo inquiry yesterday lifted the lid on South Africa’s explanation of why Pres, Samora Machel’s plane veered off course the jet had mistaken a Swazi navigational beacon for one in Maputo.

The theory also sought to dispel the popular conspiracy theory that a portable beacon had lured the presidential plane into the Eastern Transvaal hillside where it crashed killing 34 of its 44 passengers.

Ray Downes, a pilot and Department of Transport employee, who said he had tested the theory in a Boeing 737 simulator, showed Machel’s flight crew had confused a reading from a beacon in Matsupa, Swaziland, for the Maputo beacon.

On the basis of the reading, they made the fatal 37-degree turn to the right.

Downes said the plane’s VOR receiver—which picks up horizontal bearings—had been found to be locked into the Swazi beacon.

The navigator had fed a bearing from this beacon into the autopilot on the assumption that it was a beacon at Maputo.

Asked whether a portable beacon could have precipitated the crash, Downes speculated it could have caused the plane to change direction, but—unless there was a corresponding vertical guide—not to descend.

Members of the board of inquiry seemed to attach little weight to the decoy theory.Former Chief Judge of Appeal, Sir Edward

The music fades... and the trouble begins

Evelingh, noted that there had been a more violent plot against Machel, the flight beacon would be a poor effort if it was intended to lead the aircraft to disaster.

However, one question Downes could not answer was why the distance measuring equipment and one instrument landing system were both on the same frequency.

No transmitter in the area broadcast on that frequency.

While previous witnesses had hinted at the flight crew’s negligence, Downes went further calling them “very ill-disciplined” and complacent.

Contrary to the crew’s conclusion that the cockpit voice recorder, Downes said indications were that many of instruments were in fact working.

He ascribed the total pandemonium in the cockpit during the last three minutes of the crash to “attention fixation” — a common condition in air accidents, whereby the crew “lost the escape route which seems most accessible.

The Tupolev crew, who thought they were flying over the Mozambique coastline, considered only flying through the clouds to the lights of Maputo.

Downes, quoting from the cockpit voice recorder, said for a moment it seemed the captain’s training had reappeared, when he said “I don’t see the lights” to impact—“So, no, surely it is not intended to descend.”

“But his desire to see the lights is overwhelming,” Downes remarked.

His previous to descend.”

Aftermath of the shootout. A baby’s shoe balances on a bare be

Photo: CECIL MARR, AFP

Nhami escaped death by hiding in a closet for three hours.

“it looked like a bullet hole afterwards,” Journalist Sipeke said.

“There was blood splashed on the walls and bullet holes all over the place.”

IN REPRODUCTION HAS BEEN RESTRICTED IN TERMS OF THE EMERGENCY REGULATIONS.
As the music fades, the trouble begins

Last moments in the life of the Machel plane

Instrument panel of the dis-fated Tupolev was displayed at hearing.

The sequence of events which resulted in the crash—captive, culpable—other information before the commission suggests the accident was influenced by forces beyond the crew's control. A case in point is the Tupolev's last-minute turn to the right. According to the navigator's explanation on the cockpit voice recorder, it was precipitated by the VOR (VHF Omeg Range) reading off a navigational beacon on the ground.

The recording showed the captain, at first alarmed by the change of course, was reassured by the navigator's assurance that: "VOR indicates that way." The mystery is further compounded by reports that Maphito's beacon was not being coded correctly that night and thus could not have accounted for the VOR reading.

The report's reference to an abandoned camp site on the South African side of the border about 150 metres south-east of the crash site, also appears to fuel conspiracy theories about the cause of the crash.

"Witnesses on Mozambique's side of the border said a tent on the site had been removed the day after the accident," the report states.

"The SADF was outspoken on the matter," (and) found an employee of the Department of Veterinary Services who, in a particular section of the border fence September and October 1986. He frequently saw members of the "commandos" at the camp tents were, however, small.

"The company commander of the anti-aircraft Battery (also) has no knowledge of any camps with large tents in the particular area." Another strange development involved the disappearance of a checklist discovered at the scene of the 1986 South Africa's chief investigator at the crash site.

The three riddles of the crash
Jet crew ill-disciplined, complacent — investigator

JOHANNESBURG. — The Russians operating Mozambique President Samora Machel's aircraft were an ill-disciplined crew with no command direction from the pilot, said Mr Roy Downes, accident investigator with the South African Directorate of Civil Aviation.

He illustrated this by comparing flight manual regulations to the performance of the crew.

They did not have enough fuel to divert to Beira, although they had filed this as their alternative destination in the navigator's log.

Regulations were emphatic that they identify navigational instruments as they used them. There was no indication of this on the cockpit voice recorder.

Mr Downes said the crew were required to complete a call-and-response checklist before starting their descent.

"It is apparent that no preparation was made for landing this aircraft."

He said it was important, especially in the case of jet aircraft, that the checklist be strictly followed.

"There seemed to be a certain complacency in the cockpit prior to the emergency situation. The crew had flown together a long time and were comfortable with each other. They came to rely on each other to do the right thing at the right time."

Mr Downes said the crew experienced an attention failure in the form of a fixation. They were trying to get below cloud to the exclusion of everything else.

"The situation was still retrievable when the ground-proximity warning system sounded. Their reaction should have been to apply power and climb. But, because they believed they had had spurious readings, they ignored the warning."

He said there was total confusion in the last few minutes, with crew talking at the same time. They were lost.

*See Page 5.*
The accident occurred on Jepperson's second flight to Paris, the doctor's second day in the cockpit.

The doctor, who was more interested in the navigation than the flight, had not flown before and was nervous. He had been told by the instructor that the cockpit was a challenging place, but he was confident that he could handle it.

As they approached Paris, the doctor noticed that the instruments were not working properly. He tried to reset them, but they did not respond. He tried to land, but the plane crashed due to a power failure.

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Machel died 'instantly'.

PRESIDENT Samora Machel of Mozambique died instantly in the plane crash which claimed his and 33 other lives in October last year, the inquiry was told at the Rand Supreme Court yesterday.

Professor Jurie Nel, head of forensic medicine at the University of Natal, said: "There is no way he could have survived the accident."

The violence of the impact had opened the President's chest and his vital organs were moving. Reported allegations that President Machel was alive for about four hours after the crash were "not true," he said.

Neither dental records nor fingerprints of the President were made available to Professor Nel and, except for the fact that he was told this was the President, and that he had found a ring, engraved with Mrs. Machel's name he had no way of confirming that the body he examined was that of the President.
Plane crew were ill-disciplined, says local expert

By Zenaide Vendeiro and Claire Robertson

The Russians operating Mozambique President Samora Machel’s aircraft were an ill-disciplined crew with no command direction from the pilot, Mr Roy Downes, accident investigator with the SA Directorate of Civil Aviation, said yesterday.

He illustrated this by comparing flight manual regulations with their actual performance.

They did not have enough fuel to divert to Beira although they had filed this as their alternative destination in the navigator’s log.

Regulations were emphatic that they identify navigational instruments as they used them. There was no indication of this on the cockpit voice recorder.

Mr Downes said the crew were required to complete a call-and-response checklist before starting their descent. “It is apparent that no preparation was made for landing this aircraft.”

He said it was important, especially in the case of jet aircraft, that the checklist be followed.

“There seemed to be a certain complacency in the cockpit prior to the emergency situation. The crew had flown together a long time and were comfortable with each other. They came to rely on each other to do the right thing at the right time.

“The situation was still retrievable when the ground proximity warning system sounded. Their reaction should have been to apply power and climb. But, because they believed they had had spurious readings, they ignored the warning.”

He said there was total confusion in the last few minutes.

See Page 11.
False beacon theory at Machel probe

Johannesburg. — A false beacon would have led President Samora Machel’s jet off course but this would not have led it to disaster, a pilot and accident investigator told the board of inquiry into the crash yesterday.

Mr Roy Downes, a Directorate of Civil Aviation investigator and a pilot experienced in flying in Southern Africa, answered a hypothetical question about effects of a “spurious beacon” placed to lure a plane off course.

He said the beacon’s signal would have been much stronger than the Maputo beacon, or the Maputo beacon would have to have been switched off.

Mr Downes said even following this, the distance measuring equipment (DME), used before landing, would have indicated a wrong course.

When the aircraft made a right-hand turn instead of left, it was likely the co-pilot had reset the pilot’s Instrument Landing System frequency not realizing his own frequency might have been set on the Maputaphe VOR (very high frequency omnidirectional radio) instead of Maputo.

The aircraft also had about 50 minutes of fuel left on impact and should have levelled off after the ground proximity alarm sounded, he said, then re-checking its position.

But the indications were that the crew were fixated on getting out of the cloud in an apparent search for lights and were not responding logically to their instruments.

Mr Downes agreed that the radar, if used, would have alerted the crew to the fact that they were not near a coastline.

He said the crew appeared ill-disciplined with little co-ordination with their actions and had neglected the important checklist procedure, especially vital for a jet’s crew.

Sir Edward Everleigh asked an accident investigator, Mr Pieter de Klerk, whether he was aware of the Mozambicans’ concern about a military camp near the crash site.
False beacon theory — probe by expert

The Argus Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG — A decoy beacon could conceivably have diverted the Mozambique presidential aircraft off-course but this alone would not have led to its destruction, the commission of inquiry into the Machel crash heard.

The commission explored the feasibility of a false beacon having lured the aircraft off-course, following allegations to this effect

Mr Roy Downes, an expert on navigational aids with the South African Directorate of Civil Aviation, testified in the Rand Supreme Court yesterday that a false beacon could have made the aircraft change course, but could not have forced it down or made the crew ignore other instruments.

Below 900m

He agreed that if nefarious persons put up a spurious beacon, they could only have hoped to succeed on the hypothesis that the crew would descend below 900 metres and ignore the GPW (ground proximity warning) alarm and the altimeter.

He said the false beacon could only have been a VOR (Very High Frequency Omni Range) beacon — which beams only horizontal guidance, not vertical guidance — because the crew believed all other instruments were unserviceable.

Mr Downes said the aircraft continued descending until it struck the ground, in spite of the GPW having sounded.

Commission member Colonel Frank Borman agreed. He said whatever information the crew had received from the beacon, it remained their primary responsibility to maintain a safe altitude. If they had stayed at 900 metres they would have cleared the terrain.

The Argus Africa News Service reports from Maputo that shortly after the crash a South African-based journalist received an anonymous telephone call saying a decoy beacon had been used to lure the

Aim said “A journalist from a news agency with an office in Johannesburg telephoned Aim on the morning of October 21, asking about reactions in Maputo to the death of President Samora.

“He said his agency received a call from a man who claimed to be an officer in the South African Air Force. He said the South African military had placed a 'decoy beacon' in the border area,” it added.

Aim then referred to evidence led in Johannesburg about an abandoned campsites 150 metres south-east of the crash site.

Aim said cockpit voice transcripts showed the navigator turned right because he followed a signal from a VOR.

“Could it have been the VOR at Matsapa Airport in Swaziland or was it some other VOR?” it asked.
The inquiry begins

Both the Mozambican and Russian delegations were conspicuous by their absence when the Board of Inquiry into the air crash in which Mozambican President Samora Machel was killed began sitting this week. The board, which convened in the Johannesburg Supreme Court, is chaired by Justice Cecil Margo.

Nonetheless, statements from representatives of both countries will be presented to the board as the inquiry is being held in terms of regulations of the International Civil Aviation Organisation. A factual report of the air crash, drawn up jointly by all three states involved, was handed in as evidence.

According to advocate Cedric Puckrin SC, who this week began leading evidence on behalf of the Department of Transport and the Directorate of Civil Aviation, there is no compulsion on other states to appear as the accident took place in foreign territory. However, he was at pains to point out that SA had received the fullest co-operation from both Mozambique and the USSR in the joint on-site investigation and during talks in Moscow and Zurich when the aircraft's black box information was decoded.

Leading evidence on the outcome of the records in the black boxes, Puckrin said that everything pointed to the flight of the presidential Tupolev 134 being entirely normal until the point of impact. "There is nothing to suggest that sabotage of any sort was involved," he said. He also observed that there was nothing to suggest that the aircrew were under the influence of any alcohol or drugs.

Evidence extracted from the black boxes indicates that in the final few minutes before the crash, the Tupolev's captain asked Maputo control tower at least three times whether the runway lights at Maputo airport were out of order as, on final approach, he could not pick up the lights.

Apparently the only reply he got was that the aircraft was cleared for landing. It also appears that the captain, just before impact, said: "There is no Maputo" — followed by swearing. There seems to have been some confusion over which runway at Maputo the Russian-built aircraft was supposed to approach, according to flight-deck recordings of the instructions from Maputo control tower.

The Tupolev 134 nonetheless continued its descent as the captain obviously believed that he was in fact approaching Maputo airport. The black boxes reveal that for 32 seconds before impact the cockpit alarm indicating that the plane was nearing the ground was functioning.

Evidence was also led that the plane was low on fuel and could not have diverted to Beira even had the crew wished to do so.

Altogether 34 of the 44 passengers on board were killed along with all but one crew member, the chief engineer. The crash occurred within 200 m of the Mozambique border inside SA territory at a point where SA, Mozambique and Swaziland converge.
Decoy beacon could not itself have caused a crash

By Zenaide Vendeiro and Claire Robertson

A decoy beacon could conceivably have diverted the Mozambique presidential plane off course, but this alone would not have led to its destruction, the commission of inquiry into the Machel crash heard yesterday.

The commission explored the feasibility of a false beacon having lured the plane off course, following allegations to this effect.

Mr Roy Downes, an expert on navigational aids with the SA Directorate of Civil Aviation, testified that a false beacon could have made the plane change course, but could not have forced it down or made the crew ignore other instruments.

He agreed that, if "nerous persons" put up a spurious beacon to lure the aircraft to its destruction, more may have been the case.

As the plane descended below 900 feet and ignored the ground proximity warning system (GPWS) alarm and the altimeter.

By 23rd/1878

MACHETE

CRASH

INQUIRY

Judicial humour lightens the hearing

The technically complex proceedings at yesterday's sitting of the Machel crash inquiry were lightened by several moments of off-the-cuff humour.

Mr Piet de Klerk, an accident investigator with the Directorate of Civil Aviation, Department of Transport, wound up his testimony with a warning of landmines near the site.

The judge said wryly: "How very kind of you to communicate this fact to us after we have visited the area."

As Roy Downes explained the instruments on a partial reconstruction of the Tupolev TU-134A cockpit, counsel for the inquiry Mr Cedric Puckrin, SC, stood to question him.

Mr Justice Margo "Your instructing attorney's head, intellectually contained as it is, is obstructing our view."

Mr Puckrin: "My lord, I have often wished I could see into attorneys' heads myself."

His Lordship's answering remark was lost in a burst of laughter, but Colonel Frank Borman was heard to mention the word "vacant."

Mr Puckrin referred to Exhibit 22, translating this to "zoo zee" for the benefit of the American Colonel Borman: "It could be neither, or either," Sir Edward said.

The judge had earlier asked the media not to draw conclusions from the evidence.

Journalists, mystified, talked of VORs and azimuths, hoping that a kindly SAAF officer would reveal all after the sitting.

But certain members of the public explained, in stage whispers, technical terms to lesser mortals.

These aviators also offered opinions, answering questions put by inquiry members before expert witnesses had a chance to refer to their records.

"It was the VOR," they explain, and "Of course it was" nodding sagely when the exer..."
Was cockpit complacency the killer?

By Claire Robertson and Zenaide Vendêiro

Testimony during the first four days of the commission of inquiry into the Machel crash this week painted a damning picture of an ill-disciplined, complacent cockpit crew that failed to maintain professional standards or react properly in a crisis.

Expert witnesses and commission members at the inquiry in the Rand Supreme Court have built up a picture of what occurred in the Tupolev 134-A on October before it crashed, killing 34 people including Mozambican President Samora Machel — referred to as VIP 1 in a Maputo log.

On the basis of the transcripts of the cockpit voice recorder and digital flight data recorder, the following scenarios were presented.

The Russian captain (48), co-pilot (29), flight engineer (57) and navigator (48) were an experienced, licensed crew and no significant traces of alcohol were found in their blood.

However, they appeared to be an ill-disciplined crew with no command direction from the pilot.

They did not have enough fuel to divert to Beira although they had filed this as their alternative destination in the navigator’s log. The reserve fuel warning light illuminated once in the descent and then continuously for about two minutes before impact.

At a crucial stage in communications in English between the crew and the Maputo tower — when the former was trying to establish whether the runway lights were on — the Russian radio operator departed from standard terminology, confusing the young air traffic controller whose home language was Portuguese.

One theory on why the right turn which took the plane into South African territory maintained that the co-pilot failed to tell the navigator that he had selected a direction beacon in Swaziland and the navigator unwittingly steered what he believed to be the correct course to Maputo on that beacon, not knowing that he was steering a parallel course towards a beacon 100 km west.

A rudimentary check would still have revealed which beacon they were flying toward as each one identifies itself. They

Three of the six-member commission of inquiry into the Machel crash: (from left) Sir Edward Eveleigh, commission chairman, Justice C Magoa, and former astronaut Colonel Frank Borman.
‘Decoy’ claims get no backing from UK expert

The Star's Africa News Service

MAPUTO — Shortly after the air crash that killed President Samora Machel, a South Africa-based journalist received an anonymous telephone call saying a decoy beacon had been used to lure the plane off course, according to AIM, the Mozambique news agency.

The agency said: “A journalist from a news agency with an office in Johannesburg telephoned AIM on the morning of October 21 asking about reactions in Maputo to the death of President Samora.

“During the conversation he told AIM of a strange telephone call... he said the man did not identify himself but claimed to be an officer in the SAAF. He said the South African military had placed a ‘decoy beacon’ in the border area.”

AIM then referred to evidence led at the Commission of Inquiry in Johannesburg.

It said the cockpit voice transcripts clearly showed that the navigator had turned right because he was following the signal from a VOR (Very High Frequency Omnidirectional Radio).

A British radar expert who testified before the inquiry virtually ruled out that the plane was lured to destruction by a decoy beacon.

Mr. William Young, former deputy director of the British Civil Aviation Authority, was asked whether a VOR beacon was suitable for tricking an airliner into crashing.

“If I would not use this type of equipment (for the job),” he replied.

Mr. Young was asked if South Africa could have lured the plane away from the Maputo VOR beacon. He said it would involve setting up a beacon twice as powerful on the same frequency as Maputo.

Asked to explain why the presidential jet turned 37 degrees west instead of east, Mr. Young said the most plausible theory was that the Soviet air crew had mistakenly tuned their VOR on a beacon in neighboring Swaziland instead of Maputo.

Repete reports from Mozambique have hinted at the presence of a decoy beacon set up to lure the aircraft into South African territory but the inquiry heard that a false beacon could have diverted the aircraft but could only have delayed directional readings.

A false beacon would have been “a pretty poor effort” if one intended to lead the aircraft to disaster, said commission member Sir Edward Eveleigh.

Although homing on the Swaziland beacon the situation — and the lives of 34 people — could still have been saved minutes before the crash but the crew did act to pull the plane out of its descent.

Their ground warning system was screaming that, for a plane with no landing gear out and descending at 780 feet per minute, they were too close to the ground. The crew didn’t change the descent to a climb.

Another commission member, Colonel Frank Borman, said, “The only logical explanation as to why the aircraft kept descending was incredibly poor crew performance.”

The crew by that stage were ignoring or misinterpreting their navigational aids. They had developed a fixation, not uncommon in airplane accidents.
Machel crash site: questions on Pik

By Zenalde Veideep and Claire Robertson

A Department of Foreign Affairs senior official was questioned yesterday about the actions of Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr Pik Botha at the Machel crash site — and whether these constituted infractions of the Aviation Act.

Mr Neil van Heerden, Deputy Director-General of the Department of Foreign Affairs, was being cross-examined by Mr Cedric Puckrin, SC, counsel for the commission of inquiry into the plane crash.

Mr van Heerden said the presence of Mr Botha at the site was aimed at ensuring that nothing was done by either side which would reflect negatively on South Africa's bilateral relations with Mozambique or with its international image.

He said that in his view nothing was done by the Minister or the police and nothing moved or tampered with in any way, which would have had a negative effect on the investigation.

Mr Botha had insisted that international conventions and South African law be adhered to.

Mr Puckrin asked Mr van Heerden repeatedly whether the Minister may have contravened the regulations by being on the scene and allowing documents to be removed from the scene — without the permission of the Commissioner of Civil Aviation or his designated 'representative'.

Asked who had been in control at the site, Mr van Heerden said it had been a fairly confused scene from the time the Minister arrived at 10.30am, until his departure three hours later, nobody said "I am in charge."

Mr van Heerden said a representative of the Directorate of Civil Aviation (DCA) was present and in control. Although the representative was not party to the discussions with the then Mozambique Minister of Security, Mr Sergio Vierra, about the removal of personal and official documents which lay strewn over the crash site, he was introduced to Mr Vierra and had access to them.

Mr Botha discussed with the Commissioner of Police, General Johan Coetzee, the request by Mr Vierra that the documents be gathered up and handed over to Mozambique.

Since the police had already photographed the documents, and in view of the fact that there were extraordinary considerations at play, it was decided to accede to the Mozambican request, said Mr van Heerden.

Asked if Mr Botha had gained authority to be at the scene, Mr van Heerden said his Minister had held talks with the Minister of Transport Affairs but, as he was not present, he could not say whether a specific request was made.

To his knowledge, the DCA investigator at the scene at no stage told Mr Botha that he was not allowed to be at the site, said Mr van Heerden.

The chairman of the commission, Mr Justice Margo, stopped the line of questioning.

He said it had been an emotional and confused scene and there may have been infractions of the Aviation Act. However, Mr van Heerden had not been called to "plead guilty" on behalf of the Minister.

Mr Justice Margo said it was important for any accident investigation that access to a crash site be controlled and that nothing be disturbed.

To Page 2

See Page 5.
Margo inquiry to call Pik?

Weekend Post Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG — There is a possibility that the Margo Board of Inquiry into the Machet air crash will call Foreign Affairs Minister Pik Botha into the witness box to explain why he had taken apparent charge at the air crash site — and whether the actions he had taken constituted an infraction of the Aviation Act.

Mr Cedric Puekarm, SC, leading the evidence at the inquiry in the Rand Supreme Court yesterday, raised the question of a possible appearance by Mr Botha during the evidence of Mr Neil van Heerden, Deputy Director-General of Foreign Affairs.

Mr Van Heerden concurred in response to questioning that Mr Botha had been in apparent control of the situation at the crash site on the morning following the accident.

He said the presence of Mr Botha at the site was aimed at ensuring that nothing was done by either side which would reflect negatively on South Africa’s bilateral relations with Mozambique or with its international image.

He also said in his view nothing was done by the Minister or the police and nothing moved or tampered with in any way which would have had a negative effect on the investigation.

Mr Botha had insisted that international conventions and South African law be adhered to.

Mr Van Heerden’s evidence was that certain documents and possessions, which had been described as property of the Mozambique Government or personal effects of persons killed aboard the aircraft, had been removed from the crash site that day with the authorisation of Mr Botha.

Given, the extraordinary circumstances and, considering that a head of state had been killed and possible effects bilateral relations, although there may have been a possible infraction of the Civil Aviation Act, he could appreciate the reasons for this.
JOHANNESBURG—The Foreign Minister, Mr Pik Botha, may have been contravening the Civil Aviation Act by taking charge of the site where President Samora Machel’s plane crashed.

That was suggested during Thursday’s sitting of the board of inquiry into the crash.

‘Who assumed charge?’ counsel for the board, Mr Cedric Pucukin, repeatedly questioned the deputy director-general of Foreign Affairs, Mr Neel van Heerden.

‘I suppose he was first among equals there,’ Mr van Heerden said.

‘An unfortunate allusion to take,’ the chairman of the board, Mr Justice Cecil Margo, returned.

Under-the Aviation Act the Department of Civil Aviation assumes charge of the site of an accident and no one is allowed to interfere without permission.

‘Is there any question that this Act was overridden by the state of emergency?’ Mr Pucukin asked.

No, Mr van Heerden replied, but to his knowledge his minister did not get authority from the Department of Civil Aviation to go to the crash site.

He was ‘hesitant to express a view’ about allegations that police removed documents from the scene and made photo copies of them.

Not allowed

At the site Mr Botha was not informed by the investigator from the Directorate of Civil Aviation that he was not allowed to be on site, he said.

Mr Justice Margo brought questioning to a halt by saying the crash was an ‘extreme emergency’ and it was understandable there might have been transgressions.

A member of the inquiry board, Col Frank Borman of the USA, questioned Mr van Heerden about newspaper reports he read in America sourced to the Department of Foreign Affairs who alleged the crew were under the influence of alcohol.

‘I cannot recall anything like that,’ Mr van Heerden said.

The witness box took a United Nations flavour with French, Irish, British and South African experts giving evidence.

Next to testify was a Swazi man.

Mr Aaron Mamba, who lives in a village near the crash site and patrols the border fence to make sure it is in good repair, told the board of a ‘large tent’ on the hillside overlooking the crash site.

The tent disappeared shortly before the accident and reappeared a few days after it, he said.

Three soldiers lived in the tent and he saw a ball ‘the colour of curry’ at the campsite.

The mystery

Attempting to clear up the mystery of the army campsite a Capt Uys said he ‘came to the conclusion this terrain was a playing ground for the SADF’.

Capt Uys was instructed to investigate the camp site after it was brought to South Africa’s attention by the Mozambican delegation.

Originally it was an observation post, ‘to observe the Mozambican armed forces,’ he said.

‘Since October the site has not been used as often,’ the former Deputy Director of Civil Aviation in Britain, Mr William Young, said giving evidence dismissed allegations that the plane was enticed off course by a ‘rogue’ beacon.

A Very High Frequency Omni-directional Range (VOR) beacon, a horizontal navigational aid, could get a plane off course but not lead it to its destruction, he said.

For a false beacon to lure a plane off its course it had to transmit a blend of two signals. Equipment including a transmitter, generator and antenna, to achieve this would have to be transported in a three-ton truck.

He said he agreed with the theory given by a previous witness that the aircraft had tuned their VOR into a Swaziland beacon instead of the Maputo one.

The inquiry continues Monday — (Sopa)
Official tells inquiry of pilot's visit to crash scene
Crash: Did Pik break the law?

SADF playing ground

The witness box began to take on a United-Nations flavour with French, Irish, British and South African experts giving evidence, and next to testify was a rural Swazi man.

Mr Aaron Mamba, who lives in a village near the crash site and patrols the border fence to make sure it is in good repair, told the board of a "large tent" on the hillside overlooking the aircraft's crash spot.

The tent disappeared shortly before the accident and reappeared a few days after it, he said.

After his testimony Mr Mamba spent some time saying goodbye to the board and public before exiting with a flourish.

Capt Uys said he "came to the conclusion this terrain was a playing ground for the South African Defence Force".

Capt Uys was instructed to investigate it after the Mozambican delegation brought it to South Africa's attention.

"The position of this post is so well known that on October 6 last year a landmine was planted in the vicinity by a terrorist organization. It was detonated by a vehicle," Capt Uys said.

"Since October 8 the site has not been used as often as it was." Giving evidence in a broad Irish brogue, the former Deputy Director of Civil Aviation in the UK, Mr William Young, dismissed allegations that the aircraft was enticed off course by a "rogue" beacon.

A Variable Omni-Range (VOR) high-frequency beacon, a horizontal navigational aid, could get an aircraft off course but not lead it to its destruction, he said.

He said he agreed with the theory given by a previous witness that the crew had tuned their VOR in to a Swaziland beacon instead of that at Maputo.

French aeronautical expert Mr Daniel Gerard, who acted as consultant to the South Africans for the inquiry, criticized the discipline of the crew and their failure to heed the ground proximity warning signals as "unacceptable".

The inquiry is expected to end next week. — Sapa
Pik will give evidence in Machel inquiry

By DAVID JACKSON

THE Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Pik Botha, will give evidence tomorrow before the Commission of Inquiry into the Machel aircraft crash.

This was confirmed yesterday by a spokesman for the Department of Foreign Affairs in Pretoria.

The appearance will be at Mr Botha's own request, the spokesman said.

He said the commission chairman, Mr Justice C Marais, had said he would welcome such evidence and arrangements had been made for an appearance before the commission.

Documents

The following is quoting from an interview of Mr Pik Botha's department, Mr Neil van Heerden, about possible violations of the Civil Aviation Act.

"Evidence was that Mr Botha had been involved in the accident at the crash site on October 20, the morning after the crash. [Certain documents and property] were described as being the property of the Mozambique government or the personal possessions of those killed — were removed from the crash site after Mr Botha had given permission, the inquiry heard.

In terms of the Aviation Act, the Department of Civil Aviation assumes charge of the site of an accident.

Reason

Mr van Heerden told the inquiry that, given the extraordinary circumstances and the possible effect on bilateral relations (a head of state had been killed), the reasons for consenting to the Mozambican request to take the documents and effects were understandable.

In earlier evidence, the inquiry was told that investigators of the Department of Civil Aviation had been requested not to proceed to the crash site "until the political aspects had been cleared up."

The joint factual report signed by representatives of South Africa, Russia and Mozambique said South African investigators arrived at the accident site at about 8.30 on the morning after the crash.

The report states "But due to decisions and actions in the emotionally charged atmosphere, the normal investigation procedures could not be followed on the first day."

• The 'ghosts' of Charlie Alpha Alpha: Page 9
of Charle Apha Alph

Voices of Maleh Plans

Moments before the doomed crew tell of last
The mystery of the deep ocean

Confusion, alarm as they looked in vain for Marpito

Sun Times 1/87
THE cockpit voice recorder recovered after the crash has given investigators a verbatim record of the conversation between pilot and crew as they began the descent for what they thought was Maputo.

Russian was used for all talk inside the cockpit — English was used for communicating with Maputo airport.

We pick up the highlights of the transcription at 1959.12 — a little over 12 minutes before the final impact. Strong language uttered by the crew has been deleted.

1959.12 (Captain): "Look! It does not light up for the descent (a reference to the low flare warning light being inaccurate during the descent). (Strong expression.) What!"

1959.05 (Captain): "I will reduce the right one (reference to the right engine).

1959.28 (Captain): "(Strong expression) Making some turns (reference to the aircraft turning). Couldn't it be straight?"

1959.32 (Navigator): "VOR indicates that way."

1959.48 (Engineer): "Three beers and one coke. Here.

1959.51 (Co-pilot): "And why those two are lit and these two are not?" (Reference to the VOR lights on centre panel)

1959.71 (Captain): "(Strong expression) There is no Maputo."

(Co-pilot): "What?"

1959.77 (Captain): "There is no Maputo."

1959.78 (Captain): "Electrical power is off, chaps" (at Maputo Airport).

1959.36 (Co-pilot): "There to the right, it is lit."

1959.42 (Navigator): "There is something I don't understand. Oh...

1959.45 (Captain): "No, there is something."

1959.49 (Navigator): "ILS (Instrument Landing System) switched off and DME (Distance Measuring Equipment)"

1959.51 (Captain): "Everything switched off, look, chap."

1959.57 (Navigator): "And NDBs (Non Directional Beacons) do not work?"

(Captain): "Chaps!"

1959.04 (Navigator): "Yes, yes, everything switched off — ILS, DME."

1959.09 (Co-pilot): "And they do not have electrical power." [Navigator]: "NDBs?"

(Co-pilot): "And there to the left... what kind of light is there?"

(Captain): "This is correct... something strange?"

(Captain): "Well, make contact."

1959.31 (AFIS): "Information service at Maputo Airport. "Confirm yes, have field as usual."

1959.37 (Radio operator): "Not yet."

1959.39 (AFIS): "And runway lights negative yet?"

1959.43 (Radio operator): "Negative.

1959.45 (Co-pilot now clears the aircraft for an instrument landing approach to runway 23)."

1959.52 (Captain): "Something is wrong, chaps."

(Radio operator): "Here they have cloud base 1300 feet and so take it into consideration."

1959.59 (Captain): "It should be lit..."

1959.40 (Captain): "There to the right lights are seen."

(Co-pilot): "Runway is not lit."

(Captain): "Runway is not lit."

(Captain): "There's a problem."

1959.56 (AFIS clears aircraft for a visual approach to runway zero five.)

1959.08 (Radio operator): "Roger, Charlie Mimi, Charlie Alpha Alpha and we request to join right down wind."

1959.12 (Captain): "What right? Wait, heading... 24."

1959.13 (AFIS): "Right down wind is approved and report position right base for runway zero five."

1959.22 (Captain): "I understood nothing."

(Radio operator): "Don't you see the runway yet?"

1959.28 (Captain): "And what runway, what are you talking about?"

1959.32 (Navigator): "We are going to do straight-in approach."

1959.35 (Captain): "We are doing straight-in approach."

1959.38 (Radio operator): "No, well, can you see the runway?"

(Co-pilot): "No, there's nothing, there's neither city nor runway."

(Radio operator): "And so he says that..."

(Captain): "He says..."

(Co-pilot): "What does he say?"

(Radio operator): "I asked to check the runway."

(Captain): "I don't understand what he's saying..."

(Captain): "Nothing can be seen, chaps."

(Co-pilot): "Tell him once more to check the lights."

(Captain): "So no, surely it is indeed cloudy to descend."

1959.45 (Navigator): "Some 18 to 20 kilometres left."

1959.57 (Radio operator): "Maputo check again runway lights."

1959.02 (During the transmission of the radio operator's information, an alarm system sounds — this is the terrain proximity warning system.)

1959.12 (Captain): "Damn it!"

1959.17 (Radio operator): "... runway lights out of service."

(Captain): "No, it's cloudy, cloudy, cloudy."

1959.19 (AFIS): "... firm runway light out of service?"

1959.22 (Radio operator): "Affirmative, lights not in sight."

1959.27 (AFIS): "Affirmative and join right downwind runway zero five, surface wind zero nine zero, one zero knots."

(Captain): "Interjecting": "No Normal."

1959.32 Alarm stops.

1959.39 (Navigator): "No, no, there's nowhere to go, no NDBs, there's nothing."

(Captain): "Neither NDBs nor ILS.

1959.39 Plane crashes. (Impact is registered by one half second of silence.)"
Conspiracy theory that it was used to lure plane off-course

"Fearless"

Independent sources attending this week's inquiry have been impressed at the impartiality and thoroughness of the proceedings chaired by Mr Justice Margis.

This is seen as par for the course at home, given the international esteem in which the South African judiciary is already held.

But more importantly, say observers, these perceptions of a "fair and fearless" investigation are being filed abroad by some of the foreign media representatives attending the hearing.

The three overseas members of the inquiry board have unchallenged credentials:

Colonel Frank Borman, the former Apollo moonship commander, is a veteran of several top-level aviation accident inquiries;

Sir Edward Evelleagh is a former British Lord Justice of Appeal;

And Mr Geoffrey Wilkinson is the retired chief inspector of aviation accidents in Britain.

But in the same week that the inquiry got under way in the Johannesburg Supreme Court, Mozambique's Frelimo Party political bureau made it clear it would continue with its own probe into the crash.

Mistake

Much of the Mozambican concern revolves around the "conspiracy theory" of the decoy beacon.

Highly technical evidence on this point was led at this week's inquiry — with a range of experts discounting that as the likely cause of the crash.

One possibility was that the aircraft mistakenly homed in on the VOR at Matsapha Airport in Swaziland.

But Mozambique's official information agency (AIM) issued a statement on the Sunday Times yesterday:

"The appearance of the mystery VOR (very high frequency omnidirectional radio) means that there are now more questions than answers.

"Was the VOR a legitimate beacon or a decoy one? Did the crew make mistakes due to lack of attention — or were they induced to make errors?"

"Was the crash an accident or a crime, or the combination of criminal action and human failure?"

Complex

AIM concluded: "These questions can only be answered if the matter of the VOR can be clarified.

"Until that is done, this whole complex investigation runs the risk of creating more mysteries than it solves."

The saga of the mystery VOR emerges when the aircraft makes a puzzling 37 degree alteration in course about ten minutes before it is due to land.

The crew's comments — as obtained from the verbatim "black box" transcription — shed some light on the accident:

1911 28. (The captain swears, apparently in some agitation, as to the navigator changes course.) He says:

"Making some turns, couldn't it be straight?" (A reference to the aircraft turning)

1111 22. (The navigator replies) "VOR indicates that way."

Horizontal

Evidence before the commission this week was that a decoy beacon could theoretically have been used to divert the Tupolev aircraft — but that this alone would not have caused the crash.

The VOR beamed only horizontal guidance. Any "plotters" could not have known in advance that the aircraft would descend below the safety level of 3,600 feet — or that the crew would ignore their ground proximity alarm.

Colonel Borman observed that, in any case, it was the crew's "primary responsibility" to maintain a safe altitude.
Machel: Pik Botha will testify

Botha had not intended testifying, but a suggestion in court last week that he had contravened the Civil Aviation Act prompted him to change his mind. He will take the witness stand in the Rand Supreme Court this morning, and only later meet the foreign delegation — in Pretoria and not in Cape Town as planned.

Botha's decision follows evidence in cross-examination by Deputy Director-General of the Department of Foreign Affairs Neil van Heerden on Botha's handling of documents at the crash site, and his comments that the crew had been drunk. Van Heerden told Business Day yesterday that "the way the cross-examination went" had decided Botha to take the witness stand.

"The circumstances under which he visited the crash site, and the way in which he accompanied the visiting Mozambican delegation, we feel requires further elucidation."

"We regard all this as peripheral to the main investigation which is still to discover why the plane crashed."

Van Heerden disclosed that Botha had not in fact taken a civil aviation investigator's seat in the helicopter that visited the site. The helicopter was the Minister's. The investigator could not accompany them because there was not a spare seat.

The whole issue was a "storm in a teacup", said Van Heerden.
MNR ‘is pushing for the coast’

MAPUTO — Mozambique National Resistance guerrillas are pushing unsuccessfully towards the northern Zambezia coast to establish a new entry point for arms, according to the Mozambique News Agency AIM.

The agency said that, since an agreement between Malawi and Mozambique, “the South Africans are looking for alternatives to Malawi to guarantee supplies to their MNR surrogates”.

“This explains a recent MNR push towards the coast. If Malawi really does stop its territory being used as a launch pad for South African aggression, then Pretoria wants to be able to land weaponry on the Zambezia coast,” it claimed.

The agency said the MNR tried to seize the small port of Pebane last week but was repulsed by government troops.

AIM said it was not clear if Malawi was honouring its undertaking.

‘REBELS KILLED’

Last year the MNR launched a successful offensive in Zambezia but AIM claimed the situation had improved and truck convoys could now travel not only from the provincial capital of Quelimane to Mocuba in the centre of the province but now went to several northern districts.

In Mocuba district 130 rebels were killed when government troops destroyed four MNR bases recently, the agency said, and in the rich Gorue district, which contains Mozambique’s major tea plantations, army units were reopening roads.

AIM said, however, that despite the recent improvements “it is still generally felt that the military situation in Zambezia is worse than elsewhere in the country”.

Several districts remained “heavily infested with bandits”.

SA’s Isle of Man plan still on, says paper

The Star Bureau

LONDON — The British newspaper The Independent continues to insist that South Africa is from Mr Miles Walker, the island’s Chief Minister, did not refer to discussions with representa-
MNR’s drive to coast is halted

The Star’s Africa News Service

MAPUTO – Mozambique National Resistance (MNR) guerrillas have launched an offensive towards the coastal districts of northern Zambézia province, but so far they have been unsuccessful, the Mozambique News Agency, AIM, said on Saturday.

In an account of the situation in the province, AIM said that following an agreement between Malawi and Mozambique “the South Africans are looking for alternatives to Malawi to guarantee supplies to their MNR surrogates”.

This explains a recent MNR push towards the coast. If Malawi really does stop its territory from being used as a launching pad for South African aggression, then Pretoria wants to be able to land weaponry on the Zambézia coast,” it claimed.

IMPROVED SITUATION

AIM said it was not clear if Malawi was honouring its undertakings, as refugees had stated the MNR was still making free use of the Malawian border.

Last year the MNR launched a successful offensive in Zambézia province but AIM claimed that the situation in the province had now improved.

Convoys of trucks were now able to travel not only from the provincial capital, Quelimane, to Mocuba in the centre of the province, but now went beyond Mocuba to several northern districts.

In Mocuba districts 130 rebels had been killed when government troops recently destroyed four rebel bases, the agency said.

It added that in the rich Gorue district, which contains Mozambique’s major tea plantations, army units were reopening roads.

AIM said, however, that despite the improvements “the military situation in Zambézia is worse than elsewhere in the country.”
Beira Corridor firm set up in Zimbabwe

RHODESIA'S Minister of Finance during the final crisis years of UN sanctions is one of the directors of the new Beira Corridor Group company, BCG Ltd, whose prospectus was published in Zimbabwe at the weekend by Standard Chartered Merchant Bank.

The venture aims to help free Zimbabwe from vulnerability to SA economic pressure. It has initial capital of R1.3m, 200 units each of R50 of debenture stock being on offer. Lists will open next Monday and close on February 9. Financial sources believe the issue will be oversubscribed in advance.

Any shortfall would be a grave reflection on the patriotism of Zimbabwe's business community, still dominated largely by whites.

Chairman of the new venture is Denis Norman, until 1985 Minister of Agriculture in Prime Minister Robert Mugabe's government.

Another director is Scottish-born David Smith, 68, Minister of Finance in Ian Smith's last Rhodesian government.

BCG has attracted substantial aid pledges from Nordic, EC and North American financial circles. Norman believes by 1990 Beira could relieve SA routes of 60% of their current Zimbabwean traffic.

Norman hopes major export-oriented companies at parastatal corporations will snap up the stock issue. These firms will receive preferential tariffs for the transport and harbour facilities.

The prospectus is supported by a message from Zimbabwean Minister of Transport Herbert Umughungu, who urges the business community to throw its weight behind the Beira project.

Other directors are John Laurie, until recently president of the Commercial Farmers' Union, David Mor, CB of the Standard Chartered banking group, businessman Tom Mswaka, a former Secretary for Finance, and George Nyandoro, chairman of the Art Printers Group.
Crash dead tampered with — AIM

MAPUTO — Unknown persons interfered with the bodies of six of the 26 killed when Mozambique's President Samora Machel's aircraft crashed at Mbuji-mbu in South Africa last year, according to AIM, the Mozambique news agency.

The agency said that when the bodies were returned to Maputo six had stitches in neck incisions which could have been made to inject alcohol.

The bodies were those of Soviet crew member Anatoli Chonhipov, President Samora's Cuban doctors Henrique Bettencourt and Ulisses La Rosa Mesa, Mozambican stewardesses Emeseralda Luia and Sofia Arone and an official in the Mozambican Foreign Ministry, Joao Tomas Navesso.

The agency said Mozambique's Minister of Justice Mr Ali Duto sent "an official note" to the South African Government about the incident.

**NO INDICATION**

Soon afterwards South African Foreign Minister Mr Pik Botha made his claims about alcohol having been found in the blood samples of some of the Soviet crew.

The agency said that although the incisions could have been made to inject embalming fluid, there was no indication that had been made.

The incisions "were probably made to inject other substances so that they would later be detected in blood analysis" or "to take blood samples".

"Whoever made the incisions could have introduced alcohol into the blood of the dead or could have extracted blood to which alcohol would later have been added in the laboratory."
Pik says he did not act unlawfully.

JOHANNESBURG - The Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Pik Botha, today denied acting unlawfully by taking charge of investigations while at the scene of President Samora Machel's fatal plane crash.

"A head of state had died and I realised it was very serious," Mr Botha said in his evidence to the Machel Commission of Inquiry in Johannesburg.

"Certain aspects of the involvability of heads of state were involved."

Mr Botha's evidence came in the wake of reports that he had contravened the Civil Aviation Act by "taking charge" of the scene.

The South African and Mozambican delegations had met at Komatipont on the morning after the crash, he said.

"We wanted to act in terms of international law and it would have been correct for the Minister of Foreign Affairs to go there."

(Proceeding).
Pik to give evidence

FOREIGN Affairs
Minister Mr Pik Botha will give evidence to the board of inquiry into the Machab air disaster today.

A spokesman for Mr Botha said in Pretoria that Mr Botha had asked the board to permit him to give evidence, and that the board chairman, MR Justice Cecil Margo, had said he would welcome this.

Arrangements were made for Mr Botha to give evidence at 9.30am.

Evidence was given last week that Mr Botha had apparently taken control of the scene on the day of the crash, October 19, and that aviation officials were prevented from immediately starting their investigation.

—Saps
The Argus Correspondent
JOHANNESBURG. — The board of inquiry into the Machel air disaster will no doubt conclude that the aircrew was to blame, Mr JH Coetsee, counsel for the South African Government, has submitted.

Mr Coetsee was representing the departments of Law and Order, Transport, Foreign Affairs and Defence.

Exactly 100 days since President Samora Machel of Mozambique and 34 others died in the crash, Mr Coetsee and the counsel for the inquiry, Mr Cedric Puckrin SC, yesterday summed up the evidence on the last day of the public hearings in the Rand Supreme Court.

After argument by the two advocates, the board adjourned to consider the evidence. Its findings will be submitted to the Minister of Transport Affairs after 60 days, during which time further representations may be made.

“Ten chances”

Mr Puckrin recommended the board find that the probable cause of the crash was a descent by the aircraft in instrument meteorological conditions without following prescribed procedures for instrument approach below the minimum safe altitude for Maputo.

“There must have been 10 opportunities for the crew to have retrieved the situation,” he said.

There was a “general breakdown in crew discipline” when a difficulty of a “wholly banal nature — being lost — turned into unnecessary disaster.”

“It was a perfectly avoidable situation, but nothing was done to avert it.”

It was possible within the last few seconds to avert disaster by pulling up when the ground-proximity warning system sounded.

There had been no malfunction of any flight system, no explosion, no sabotage and no hostile act, Mr Puckrin said.

Mr Coetsee said the evidence clearly showed that the cause was the “incredibly poor performance of the crew”, quoting board member and former US astronaut Colonel Frank Borman.

The crew disbelieved their instruments — and “once you disbelieve your instruments you are a proverbial dead duck.”

As far as the “red herring” of the false beacon set up to lure the aircraft to destruction was concerned, there was no credible evidence before them to support this, Mr Coetsee said.

Mozambique last night acknowledged for the first time that serious pilot error could be one of the causes of the crash, the Argus Africa News Service reports.

But the Mozambique news agency, said in its report, the origin of the disaster was the mystery VOR (very high frequency omnirange radio) which made the crew divert from its original path.
Machel crash pilots: Pik denies drink claim

FOREIGN minister Pik Botha said yesterday any negative inferences drawn from his statement that the crew members of the Tupolev jet in which President Samora Machel of Mozambique died had alcohol in their blood were unfortunate.

While testifying before the Johannesburg commission of inquiry into the crash, he denied saying they had been drinking. He had merely read from a medical report that they had small amounts of alcohol in their blood.

It had not been his intention to allege that they were drinking. Any such inferences were to be regretted, he said. But he agreed that it was not far-fetched that this conclusion could have been reached.

The information was contained in a medical report he had requested. It confirmed that Machel had died instantly, and not four hours after the crash, as was being alleged at the time.

Answering a question on why he had said the aircraft did not have a ground warning system when evidence had proved it did, Botha said: "My task was to try and alleviate the damaging effects of allegations against South Africa. I am not a technician. These were the facts given to me."

Any incorrect technical information he had received and made public was to be regretted. He had assumed when given it that it was correct.

He said Mozambique's representative at the crash site, Security Minister Sergio Vieira, had asked if he could take away the documents scattered around the plane because they were people's and state documents.

Botha said he was not in a position to give permission, but had asked the commissioner of police who had told him they could be taken away. Police had made copies of all documents.

Botha said it was clear from the start of the extreme importance to SA of securing the co-operation of the Mozambican government.

He knew accusations would start flying even without such an incident.
Pilots blamed for Machel's death

POOR airmanship and a breakdown in cockpit discipline were cited yesterday as reasons for the plane crash in which President Samora Machel of Mozambique died in October.

Cedric Puckrin, SC, who led evidence in Johannesburg on the last day of the five-day inquiry, said the most probable cause of the accident was descent by the aircraft in instrumental/meteorological conditions below the minimum safe altitude for Maputo Airport, without following prescribed procedures for an instrument approach.

Puckrin said the crew did not take any of about 10 opportunities it had to avert disaster in the final minutes before the crash.

He said the crew had failed to file a flight plan, had insufficient fuel to divert to Beira, and failed to identify and cross-check instruments and bearings.

The captain had failed to monitor the flight and detect navigational error, continued descent below a minimum safe altitude, failed to use radio procedures to best advantage and failed to heed the ground warning system.

John Coetzee, acting for the State, cited error and lack of judgment by the crew during descent and an inability to recover the situation.

Puckrin dismissed allegations that the plane was lured to its destruction by a false beacon.

He said the theory had been destroyed effectively by Mozambique's delivery on Sunday of an independent computer analysis of the Tupolev's ground flight path.

Regarding the wrong turn, Puckrin said it was possible the co-pilot had selected the Metapla VOR directional beacon in Swaziland instead of the Maputo beacon and turned right, not left, thinking the jet was out to sea.

The co-pilot was listening to music until the final moments and the captain took an interest in events only during the last two minutes before impact.

He said there was no malfunction of any system, no explosion on board and no sabotage.

The inquiry was asked if the wreckage, housed at Komatipoort, could be released to Mozambique. Board chairman Justice Margo said it should remain in SA until the findings had been checked by all three countries.

The board's findings on the causes and responsibility for the crash are expected to be made public in about two months' time.

Once the findings have been made, the Soviets and Mozambicans have 60 days to make comments and representations.

The findings will be published by the International Civil Aviation Organisation.
Primary cause of crash was the unchecked descent of aircraft

Inquiry is asked to conclude crew responsible for errors
The commission of inquiry into the Machel crash has been asked to find the Russian crew responsible for a series of errors which sent flight C9CAA — a special flight with 48 people, including "VIP 1" aboard — plunging into a kaNgwane hillside three months ago.

Although it is not the function of boards of inquiry into aircraft accidents to apportion blame, Mr Cedric Puckrin, SC, told the last public sitting of the inquiry in the Rand Supreme Court yesterday that this was "a somewhat pious recommendation" of the 1944 Chicago Convention, in terms of which the inquiry was held.

"One cannot say that an act of omission or commission occurred without apportioning some blame," he said.

Mr J H Coetzee, counsel for the Departments of Law and Order, of Defence, of Foreign Affairs and of Transport, said in his summing up of the evidence that he had no doubt the commission would conclude that the "air crew was to blame" for the crash.

Mr Puckrin, counsel for the inquiry, said the evidence showed that the primary cause of the crash was the unchecked descent of the aircraft contrary to the rules of flying.

Contributory causes were the poor armanship displayed by the crew. These causes included:
- The crew failed to file a flight plan although the Air Information Publication (AIP) manual states that this is essential, particularly for cross-border flights.
- They did not take on enough fuel to divert to Berra should the need arise although this was named as their alternative destination on the navigator's log.
- They failed, in the initial phase of the journey, to fly on the correct flight path.
- The crew neither identified nor cross-checked the frequencies or selections of their cockpit navigational aids.

Descent despite clear warning
- The captain failed to monitor the flight, detect the navigational error, and he permitted the plane to descend below a safe altitude.
- They continued to descend in spite of a clear warning by the Ground Proximity Warning System (GPWS) that they were flying too low for a plane with retracted landing gear.
- The fact that they were lost was not detected by the captain.
- Although they mistrusted their navigational aids, they failed to use primary instruments such as the compass and altimeter to assist in identifying the aircraft's position.
- They also failed to use radio-telephone procedures to their best advantage.

Mr Puckrin submitted that the captain's words "Nowhere to go" in the last few minutes referred to the fact that, because the plane was low on fuel, there was nowhere to divert to.

He said there was slack flight deck and fuel management.

Dealing with the 37 degree premature turn to the right minutes before the plane crashed, Mr Puckrin said three theories had been advanced to explain this.
- Mr Roy Downes, accident investigator from the Directorate of Civil Aviation, proposed the "Matsapha beacon theory". He said the co-pilot selected the Matsapha frequency on a navigational aid, but failed to tell the navigator, who thought they were locked on to the Maputo beacon.
- When the turn was completed, the aircraft was on a parallel course to the path it should have taken, but far to the west of Maputo.
- Mr Downes also suggested the "Doppler uncoupled theory", propounding that once the Doppler, an instrument measuring the ground speed of an aircraft, was uncoupled from the autopilot, the heading for the aircraft was automatically set on the captain's "heading bug" (a pointer set up on the steering compass to assist the pilot to know which direction to fly).

"False beacon theory" ruled out
- The third was the controversial "false beacon theory", which was ruled out by all the expert witnesses who testified at the inquiry.

The commission earlier heard that the hypothetical decoy beacon could only have been a VOR beacon.

"But," said Mr Puckrin, "it was abundantly clear from the last two minutes of the cockpit voice recorder that a VOR signal was not being followed."

Mr Puckrin said the evidence concerning the mysterious tent and campsite on a hill above the crash site, at which the false beacon had allegedly been placed, paled into insignificance.

"If one accepts the objective, technical facts, it could not have existed," he said.

Mr Puckrin said the Matsapha beacon theory was the probable cause of the right-hand turn.

The only hypothesis left was of a "general breakdown in crew discipline", when a difficulty of a "wholly banal nature — being lost — turns into unnecessary disaster".

"It was a perfectly avoidable situation, but nothing was done to avert it."

Turning to the search and rescue operation, Mr Puckrin said while it was true that it took some hours before the search and rescue teams reached the site, the inquiry should bear in mind the isolation and nature of the terrain.

There was no evidence that any of the deceased would have been saved if they had been found earlier, he said.

The commander and political commissar at the Mozambican military base on the border, who saw the plane go down, did not alert the South African authorities.

"They may have thought it was not a Mozambican aircraft and none of their business. Thus would show a disregard for human life," he said.
SABOTAGE CLAIMS DISMISSED

The hearing into President Samora Machel's ill-fated flight from Lusaka to Maputo drew to a close yesterday as the six-member board adjourned to consider five days of highly technical avionational evidence.

It could be as long as two months before their report becomes public. The Chicago Convention, under which the inquiry was convened, allows the country of manufacture of the Tupolev 124A (Russia) and the country of registry (Mozambique) 60 days to comment on the report. The report is then sent to the International Civil Aviation Organisation.

The tragic accident in which the 53-year-old Marxist leader and 34 other people were killed was probably caused by the "descent of the plane in (bad weather) conditions to below the minimum safe altitude without following the prescribed procedures for an instrument approach," Mr Cedric Puckrin, counsel for the board of inquiry, said in his address.

Mr Puckrin dismissed allegations that the plane was lured to its destruction by a false beacon and blamed "poor airmanship" for the crash on October 19 last year.

"All speculation has been effectively destroyed by the delivery on Sunday by the Mozambique government of an independent computer analysis of the ground flight path plan."

The document supplemented previous evidence quashing the allegations of rogue beacon.

It was possible the copilot selected the Matsapa Very High Frequency Omnitrac Range (VOR) beacon in Swaziland instead of the Maputo beacon and took a wrong turn, thinking the presidential plane was out to sea, he said.

"This particular selection was not visible to the navigator because of the layout of the cockpit."

After the turn the plane was then parallel to the path it would have taken to the Maputo airport runway — Sapi

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Reporter freed

A JOURNALIST and member of the Media Workers' Association of South Africa, who spent 25 days in detention under Section 29 of the International Security Act, has been released.

Mr Sipho Ngcobo, employed by Business Day newspaper, said although he was happy to be out of jail, he was concerned about the number of journalists and other people, including youths, who are still in detention.

Mr Ngcobo said after his release he gained the impression that black journalists were targets because they reported on unrest and political upheaval in black townships.

He was not going to be deterred by any form of detention from doing his job as a journalist and working towards the dismantling of apartheid.

As long as there was apartheid unrest would continue in South Africa, he said.

He mentioned among others, Mr Percy Qoboza, editor of City Press, Mr Aggrey Klaaste, deputy editor of the Sowetan, Mr Joe Thloloe, assistant editor of the Sowetan and Mr Zwelakhe Suka, Editor of The New Nation, who have been detained in the past but were not deterred in their work as journalists.

Mr Ngcobo said that while in detention he was not allowed visitors. He used to receive food parcels from relatives and friends.
LISBON — Mozambican rebel officials will meet secretly in Europe early next month to reorganize the political wing of the rightist movement, rebel sources said yesterday.

The sources, who did not want to be named, said the meeting, which will not be attended by Mozambican National Resistance (MNR) leader Mr. Afonso Dhlakama, aims to strengthen the movement's political structure in the wake of recent victories in Mozambique.

About 12 officials representing the MNR abroad will participate in the gathering which one source said will take place next week in West Germany.

The officials represent the South African-backed rebels in Kenya, Malawi, the United States, Portugal and West Germany.

Another MNR source said the meeting is designed to shuffle some political posts, streamline activities abroad and prepare the recruitment of "political cadres" among Mozambicans in exile.

The MNR's fledgling political wing was shaken last year when Mr. Dhlakama dismissed the secretary general, Mr. Eto Fernandez, in July and later ousted the representative for Europe, Mr. Jorge Correia — UPI
JOHANNESBURG — The hearing into President Samora Machel’s ill-fated flight from Lusaka to Maputo drew to a close yesterday afternoon as the six-member board adjourned.

It could take up to two months for their report to become public.

The Chicago Convention, under which the inquiry was convened, allows the country of manufacture of the Tupolev 134A (Russia) and the country of registry (Mozambique) 60 days to comment to the report. The report is then sent to the International Civil Aviation Organization.

The accident in which the 53-year-old Marxist leader and 34 other people were killed probably caused by the “descent of the plane in (bad weather) conditions to below the minimum safe altitude without following the prescribed procedures for an instrument approach”, Mr Cedric Puckrin, counsel for the board of inquiry, said in his address.

Mr Puckrin dismissed allegations that the aircraft was lured to its destruction by a false beacon and blamed “poor airmanship” for the crash on October 19 last year.

“All speculation has been effectively destroyed by the delivery on Sunday by the Mozambique government of an independent computer analysis of the ground flight path plan.”

It was possible the co-pilot selected the Matsapha beacon in Swaziland instead of the Maputo beacon and when he took a right turn, he thought the aircraft was over the sea, he said.

After the turn the aircraft was then parallel to the path it would have taken to the Maputo airport runway.

“If one reads the last two minutes of the transcript of the Cockpit Voice Recorder it is clear that no VOR is being followed,” he said.

Also responsible for the “perfectly avoidable” accident was a breakdown in cockpit discipline.

“Had the captain been in charge he could have averted the disaster,” Mr Puckrin said.

The co-pilot, probably piloting the plane, was listening to music until the final moments and the captain took an interest in proceedings only during the last two minutes before impact.

Earlier, the Foreign Minister, Mr Pik Botha, denied acting unlawfully by taking charge of investigations at the scene of the crash.

“A head of state had died and I realized it was very serious,” Mr Botha said.

“After accusations that President Machel was alive several hours after the accident I requested the post-mortem reports. I saw in the reports that alcohol was found in the blood of crew members so I mentioned it,” Mr Botha said.

“I never said they were under the influence of alcohol and I regret making that statement if any inference and conclusions were made.”

“Then what was the purpose in reporting it?” Mr Puckrin asked.

“I’m not a technician.”

“To counteract accusations against our team I didn’t seek any inference.” Mr Botha replied.

Mr Botha also allegedly said the aircraft had no Ground Proximity Warning Signal.

“The facts reported are dramatically opposed to the findings of the board,” Mr Puckrin said.

“I’m not a technician. These facts were given to me by technicians. I assumed they were correct,” Mr Botha returned — Sapa

Bodies ‘interfered with’

MAPUTO — Bodies of six of 34 people killed with Mozambican President Samora Machel when his aircraft crashed in South Africa last October were interfered with, Mozambique’s official news agency AIM reported yesterday.

Quoting Health Minister Mr Fernando Var, it said the six were found with incisions around the necks, which had been stitched when the bodies were flown from the crash scene to Maputo.

AIM said Mozambique had asked South Africa to explain the purpose of the incisions, which it said appeared aimed at injecting “other substances so they would later be detected in blood analyses”.

AIM referred to a statement by South African Foreign Minister Mr Pik Botha soon after Machel’s death that some of the Soviet crew members had alcohol in their blood.

AIM said the six whose bodies had incisions were Soviet crew member Mr Anatoli Choulilipov; Pres Machel’s Cuban doctors, Dr Henrique Betten-court and Dr Ulises la Rosa Mesa, air hostess Miss Esmeralda Luisa and Miss Sofia Arene; and Foreign Ministry official Mr Joao Navasne.

South Africa is conducting an inquiry into the causes of the crash. The probe is separate from another launched last year jointly by Pretoria, Maputo and Moscow, whose preliminary report has not been published.

Last week, Mozambique urged the three-nation investigation to continue its work after AIM said “important new facts” about the crash had emerged.

— Sapa-Reuters
Crew to blame for Machel air disaster, says Govt lawyer

The commission of inquiry into the Machel air disaster will no doubt conclude that the “air crew was to blame”, Mr J H Coetzee, counsel for the South African Government, submitted yesterday.

Exactly 100 days since President Samora Machel of Mozambique and 33 others died in the crash, Mr Coetzee - representing the departments of Law and Order, Transport, Foreign Affairs and Defence - and counsel for the inquiry Mr Cedric Puckrin SC, summed up the evidence on the last day of the public hearings at the Rand Supreme Court yesterday.

After argument by the two advocates, the commission adjourned.

The findings will be submitted to the Minister of Transport Affairs after 60 days, in which time further representations may be made.

Mr Puckrin recommended that the commission find that the probable cause of the crash was a descent by the plane in instrument meteorological conditions without following prescribed procedures for instrument approach below the minimum safe altitude for Maputo.

“There must have been 10 opportunities for the crew to have retrieved the situation,” he said.

There was a “general breakdown in crew discipline” when a difficulty of a “wholly banal nature, being lost, turned into unnecessary disaster”.

“It was an avoidable situation, but nothing was done to avert it.” It was possible within the last few seconds to avert disaster by pulling up when the Ground Proximity Warning System sounded.

Contributory causes were connected with the crew’s poor airmanship.

There had been no malfunction of any flight system, no explosion, no sabotage and no hostile act, Mr Puckrin said.

Mr Coetzee said the evidence clearly showed that the cause was the “incredibly poor performance of the crew”, quoting board member and former astronaut Colonel Frank Borman.

As far as the “red herring” of the false beacon luring the aircraft to destruction was concerned, there was no credible evidence to support this.

*See Page 9.
Evidence belied
statements by Pik

The Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Pik Botha, should have been briefed by more competent technicians, a member of the commission of inquiry into the Machel air disaster said yesterday.

Former astronaut Colonel Frank Borman made this remark when the counsel for the South African Government, Mr JH Coetzee, attempted to explain discrepancies in statements made by Mr Botha after the crash.

Statements made by Mr Botha were contradicted by expert testimony.

Reports based on these statements were published in the local and international media and quoted the Minister as saying that:

- The presence of alcohol was found in the bodies of at least two of the Tupolev TU-134A crew members.
- The aircraft was not equipped with a ground proximity warning system (GPWS).
- The aircraft’s outdated instruments were locked into the Maputo VOR (VHF Omni Range) Beacon.

Appearing before the commission at his own request yesterday, Mr Botha said he had made a statement that a small percentage of alcohol had been found in the blood of the crew members but said he never implied that the crew had been under the influence of alcohol.

However, he agreed with the commission’s counsel, Mr Cedric Puckrnan, that it was not far-fetched for a layman to come to that conclusion.

MINISCULE

The pathologists who examined the bodies testified that the amounts of alcohol were miniscule and could have been the result of decomposition.

Questioned about a report in The Star on November 21 which quoted him as saying the aircraft had not been equipped with a ground proximity warning system, Mr Botha said he had received this information from technicians involved in the crash inquiry.

However, during closing argument Mr Coetzee said the full statement on which the report was based made it clear that there was a GPWS but the instruments were set at zero.

Another member of the board, Mr Geoffrey Wilkinson of the United Kingdom, said the statement was “nonsense” as the instruments referred to had nothing to do with the GPWS.

At this stage, Colonel Borman interjected “I think what you are trying to say is that the Minister should have been briefed by more competent technicians. Perhaps they were telling him what he wanted to hear.”

In his evidence, Mr Botha said it was his task to try to alleviate and minimise the damaging effect of allegations levelled against the Government.

He said news had reached him that the United Nations wanted to appoint its own investigation team. It was against this background that he felt it necessary from time to time to disclose facts that could not be open to argument.

“My purpose was to counteract the growing current of allegations made even against the South African investigation team.”
MOSCOW. — A senior Soviet civil-aviation official said yesterday that sabotage caused the aircraft crash that killed Mozambican President Samora Machel last October and strongly suggested South Africa was involved.

Deputy Civil Aviation Minister Mr Ivan Vasin told a news conference that the Soviet Tu-134 aircraft had been lured off course by false information supplied by a radio beacon.

The aircraft, heading for the Mozambique capital of Maputo, turned westwards instead of east on a flight from Zambia and crashed in mountains just inside South African territory on October 19, killing 94 people.

Mr Vasin denounced the "conclusions" of a judicial inquiry which has adjourned in Johannesburg and said Western media reports on the proceedings aimed to fan "anti-Soviet hysteria".

The Soviet Union and Mozambique did not take part in the inquiry, although both governments endorsed documents submitted as evidence.

Under international civil-aviation procedures, the board's findings must first go to the two other countries involved (Russia as the aircraft manufacturer and Mozambique as the country of registration) before going to the international controlling body. Only then will their conclusions be made public. This could be two months.

At the inquiry a British radar expert virtually ruled out the decoy-beacon theory, saying the aircraft's Soviet crew were most likely tuned in to a VOR (Very High Frequency Omni-directional Range) beacon in Swaziland.

But Mr Vasin said tests on flight equipment carried out by a commission of experts from the Soviet Union, Mozambique and South Africa proved that the aircraft's systems were tuned exactly to the VOR frequency of the Maputo airport.

Mr Vasin said Soviet and Mozambican experts on the commission had concluded that the aircraft's equipment worked normally during the flight and the crew were "first-rate specialists".

Asked whether the crew had any advance warning that the aircraft was in trouble, he said an altimeter system alerted them 30 seconds before the accident that a crash was possible.

However, the crew ignored the warning, he said.

"The signal was thought to be false because the crew thought it was not in a mountain district." At the Johannesburg inquiry, a South African lawyer said the aircraft's crew erred nine times in the flight's final minutes and then missed 10 chances to avert the crash.

Mr Cedric Puckrin, counsel for the board, said on Monday that he believed the crash resulted from the "poor armament" of the Soviet crew and not from any sabotage. — Sapa-Reuter-AP
Army reopens roads

MAPUTO — After two months of operations against guerrilla strongholds in central Zambesia, the Mozambican army has reported significant gains, opening up roads to food convoys and allowing the northern tea crop to get to port.

Despite the recent improvement, "it is generally felt that the military situation in Zambesia is worse than elsewhere in the country," the national news agency, AIM, reported in a dispatch from the province on Friday.

It noted that the Mozambican National Resistance guerrillas, fighting for more than a decade against the Marxist government, still have a heavy presence from Mopeia on the Zambezi River, in Morrumbala, and Malange on the Malawi border, an area covering 240 kilometres in that one province. Fighting occurs elsewhere in the country, but less so in the south.

AIM said convoys of trucks were now able to carry food and medicine from Quelimane, the provincial capital on the Indian Ocean coast, beyond Mocuba, 130 kilometres due north.

In October, AIM said, that was unthinkable. Trucks and cars that dared travel in the area were attacked and burned, bridges were dynamited and the road surface was wrecked with mines or blocked by tree trunks. Local people had to walk, in groups, up to a hundred kilometres, travelling by night, to collect supplies. AIM reported.

Mozambique accuses South Africa of supplying and inducting the guerrillas and charges Malawi with knowingly letting them use its territory. They have denied the accusations.

Mozambique says the war is a major cause of famine and economic hardship affecting the country. It said the recent government troop successes had allowed peasants to return to their fields in Zambesia, although their villages had been burnt. It also said the reopening of roads in the northern part of the province had allowed pitted-up tea harvests from the Gurue district to get to the coast for marketing.

AIM noted that since a security agreement was signed between Mozambique and Malawi on December 18, there had been little information about what was happening on the border. AIM suggested that if the alleged Malawi outlet was cut off, the guerrillas would need access to the sea for supplies — Sapa-AP
MACHEL CRASH

Pilot error?
The week-long sitting of the board of inquiry into the causes of the aircraft crash in which former Mozambican president Samora Machel died ended in Johannesburg this week.

One of the features of the last day was Foreign Minister Pik Botha's efforts to explain away some of his rash bluster at the site of the accident the day after it happened.

He claimed at the time that the pilots had been drinking, though the board of inquiry has since established that this was not so. Botha said he made this claim on the basis of a medical report he called for. He also said that his claim that the aircraft did not have a ground warning system was based on a report given to him. In fact the system was active for 32 seconds before impact. Botha said he was not a technician and had assumed this fact was correct.

The board heard that poor airmanship and bad piloting were the essential causes of the accident. It seems that, in all probability, the aircraft was homing in on the Matsapha VOR (Very high frequency omnidirectional beacon) in Swaziland when it should have been homing in on the Maputo beacon.

The allegation that SA deliberately lured the aircraft off course was given little credence by William Young, former deputy director of the British Civil Aviation Authority, when he was asked whether a VOR beacon was suitable for tracking an aircraft into crashing. He said: "I would not use this type of equipment as it would involve setting up a beacon on the same frequency and twice as powerful as the Maputo beacon."

It would seem that the flight crew never checked that the radial was coming from the correct VOR (all VORs send out signals, or radials, over 360 degrees much like the spokes of a wheel). Each VOR has its own coding by which it can be identified but apparently the crew of the Tupolev 134 never checked. As one expert put it: "They had the right spoke but in the wrong wheel."

Nonetheless, the Mozambican media are still insisting on flying in the face of the evidence before the board, with Notícias, in particular, alleging that Machel was lured to his death.

Additional evidence was to the effect that the pilots believed they were unable to pick up any runway lights because the lights were out of order. They didn't for a moment realise that the lights simply weren't there because the runway wasn't there.

In addition the ground controller was young and had been out of training for only three months. However, it appeared that he performed "perfectly well" until the aircraft began its descent. After that there was a series of misunderstandings between him and the crew as to whether the runway lights were on and whether the Maputo ILS (instrument landing system) was out of order.

The board's findings are expected to be made public in about two months.
Machel's plane 'not lured'  

MAPUTO — Mozambican aviation experts denied yesterday that President Samora Machel's aircraft could have been lured off course by a radio beacon in Swaziland.

The plane crashed just inside South Africa last October killing Mr Machel and 34 other people. A South African inquiry was told last week that the crew might have been misled by the Swazi beacon into turning the wrong way and crashing into a hillside.

But the experts said the flight path showed it was flying deeper into South Africa — not towards Swaziland.

"The chart (flight path) shows the plane turning onto a course which would have taken it eventually to high mountains in South Africa's Natal province," one expert said.

There was no possibility of the plane having wrongly homed on to the Swazi beacon, which transmits at a different frequency from Maputo airport, an expert said. — Sapa-Reuters
M'ambique devalues currency

MAPUTO — War-plagued Mozambique devalued its currency, the metical, by more than 80% last night. Central Bank Governor Evaristo Correia announced that the bank will in future sell meticais at 200 to the dollar and sell dollars for 204 meticais. The official exchange rate in the past few days has hovered around 39 to the dollar.

The new rate still values the currency far above the black market rate, where one dollar fetches about 1,500 meticais.

Earlier yesterday, the government announced it was raising wages by 50% for all state sector employees — Sapa-Reuters
British soldiers train Mozambican force to patrol rail link to Malawi

The Star's Africa News Service

MAPUTO — Former British soldiers are training a special Mozambican force for the protection of the railway line from Nacala port to Malawi, according to diplomatic sources here.

Britain is also involved with several other countries in the rehabilitation of the railway, which would provide an additional route to the sea for Zambia and Zaire as well as for Malawi.

The Britons training the special force are said to be operating completely independently of the British instructors who are training troops in Zimbabwe.

According to diplomatic sources the instructors are operating under an agreement between the Mozambican State company Emocha, which is involved in tea-growing, and Lonrho, the British-based multinational corporation headed by Mr Tiny Rowlands, which has been expanding its commercial interests in Mozambique in recent years.

There is speculation here that part of the special force may be used to guard the railway line linking Maputo with Zimbabwe through the Limpopo valley by way of Chicalacuila.

Like the Nacala line, the Chicalacuila railway has become inoperative because of attacks by the Mozambique National Resistance (MNR) movement and lack of maintenance.

If rehabilitated, it would give Zimbabwe and other hinterland states another route to the sea besides the Beira corridor.

While international attention has been focussed on the major project to upgrade the Beira corridor railway and Beira port, work has quietly been going ahead on the rehabilitation of the Nacala line. The Mozambican Government is believed to be planning also to rehabilitate the Chicalacuila line.

All three railways are subject to attack by the MNR and can operate only under armed protection.

The Beira corridor, which includes the oil pipeline to Zimbabwe, is patrolled by strong Zimbabwean forces. It now appears that the plan is to have the other two railways guarded by the special force.

The force is one of several private armies that are said to be operating in Mozambique to protect commercial interests. These include a force guarding Lonrho farming interests near the Beira corridor. Another force is said to be protecting a dam construction site in the south.
MOZAMBEQUE - GENERAL

1987

FEBRUARY - 8 JUNE.
Many mysteries and questions are unanswered

City Press Special Correspondent

He said Soviet and Mozambican experts on the commission had concluded that the plane's equipment worked normally during the flight, that the crew were "first-rate specialists" and that weather conditions could not have caused the crash.

In support of the decoy beacon theory, Vasim said that shortly after the crash a Mozambican Biafran 727 was found to be following a false course parallel to that taken by the Tupolev and had to be redirected.

He said the three-nation commission found "remnants of an army-type camp" about 150m from the crash site. He said the camp had been abandoned the day after the crash - suggested that the beacons may have been located there.

Vasim said the crew he only been alerted that a plane was in trouble 30 seconds before the crash when an altimeter warning system alerted them that a crash was possible. But the crew ignored the warning, he said, because they did not believe they were in a mountain district.

Foreign Minister Puk Botha gave evidence at his own request to explain why, after the crash, he had made statements which were proved incorrect by evidence given before the commission.

He said that when, after the crash, he alleged that alcohol had been found in the blood stream of some of the aircrash he had not meant to imply they had been drinking.

However, he agreed that it was not far-fetched that this conclusion could have been reached from what he had said.

He also said that any
MACHEL

This graph was compiled to show how the aircraft lost height before it crashed. The bottom line shows the ground surface, while the top line shows the height of the aircraft. The axis shows the time from the moment that the aircraft began to lose height. The arrow indicates the moment of impact.

Incorrect technical information he had made public was to be regretted as he had assumed, when given it, that it was correct.

Referring to reports that he had ordered investigators to remain in Komatiport while his delegation went to the crash site, Botha said that the helicopter pilot had told him there were too many people and some had to give up their seats.

The Maputo newspaper Notícias later accused Botha of deliberately spreading false information in order to hide possible South African responsibility.

Botha told the commission that he had gone to the site of the crash at the request of State President PW Botha. He said his purpose was to try to alleviate and minimise the allegations levelled against the government.
2

In documents submitted to the commission, the Russians confirmed they agreed with the factual report on the accident, but indicated the view that the joint investigation commission of the three countries, Russia, Mozambique and South Africa, should also have made an analysis and conclusions, as laid down in the Chicago Convention.

Shortly after the commission had concluded hearings evidence this week, Soviet Deputy Civil Aviation Minister Ivan Vasin told a Press conference in Moscow that sabotage had caused the Russian Tupolev aircraft to crash, and suggested that South Africa was involved.

Critics say the honourable men on the commission will give a honest opinion, based on the evidence given them, but several mysteries remain untouched by the commission.

Among them are:

- Why did the aircraft fly with insufficient fuel with someone as important as Machel on board, especially as the pilot was known for good fuel management, and the nearest the crash was to a decoy beacon?

- Did the aircraft follow a decoy beacon?

- Was there a mysterious camp site about 150m from the scene of the crash? If so, who was at it, and what became of it?

- The explanations put before the commission for most of the mysteries has been negligence on the part of the air crew.

There is little doubt from the evidence, that the crew, especially the pilots, were negligent.

They had flown for a long time together and knew one another well and the territory they flew, and it would appear they became complacent.

Some theorists say that saboteurs could have been well aware of this complacency.

An explanation for the aircraft following the wrong beacon is that the co-pilot followed the beam from the beacon at Matsapa airport in Swaziland.

However, the Matsapa beacon has always been there and an experienced air crew must have encountered it before.

Was a beacon beamed at them from the 'mystery camp'?

There is little doubt that...
Guerilla army being formed over border

Mugabe may face a new challenge

By Gerald L'Ange,
The Star's Africa News Service

Former Rhodesian nationalist leader the Rev Ndabamengi Sithole is forming a guerilla army to try to overthrow the Zimbabwe Government and has made an alliance with the anti-government rebels in Mozambique, according to some of his supporters.

About 1500 of his men are already fighting alongside Mozambique National Resistance (MNR) forces inside Mozambique, mostly in attacks on the Beira Corridor, the sources say.

Mr Sithole has been living in self-imposed exile for several years, mainly in Britain, but recently in the United States. But the sources say he plans to join his men in Mozambique and lead the campaign from the bush.

According to them, Mr Sithole's organisation, the Zimbabwe Democratic Freedom Movement, is gaining recruits in eastern Zimbabwe for training in areas of Mozambique in which the MNR is active.

Mr Sithole left Zimbabwe after Mr Robert Mugabe's Zimbabwe African People's Union (ZANU) Party won the independence election in 1980. He had already split with ZANU, despite having founded it in 1963, when he led a breakaway from Mr Joshua Nkomo's Zapu.

He subsequently lost the leadership of the party, which went into a guerilla war against white rule in Rhodesia.

Mr Sithole's supporters deny rumours that his organisation may be involved with dissident Zimbabwe groups which the Zimbabwean Government claims are being trained in the Transvaal under an alleged South African Government plan to foment subversion in Zimbabwe.

Last year Zimbabwean Security Minister Mr Emmerson Mnangagwa warned that "a new breed of dissidents" might appear in the south-east of the country, but did not specify who they might be.

According to Mr Sithole's sources, his guerrillas in Mozambique are concentrating their efforts at this stage on joining MNR attacks on the railway, road and oil pipeline running along the Beira Corridor from Mutare (formerly Umtali) to the sea.

The MNR has declared war on Mr Mugabe's government, which has sent about 10,000 troops into Mozambique to help the Frelimo government fight the rebels. The Harare government believes its own existence would be threatened if the MNR came to power in Mozambique and has vowed to "fight to the last man" to keep it from doing so.

Observers believe that the appearance of a Sithole guerilla army in Mozambique could probably lead to accusations in Harare and Maputo that it was backed by South Africa. For in both capitals there is an official belief that Pretoria wants to keep the two governments off balance to discourage the imposition of sanctions on South Africa.
Mozambique asks to attend summit

The Star Banner

LONDON — Mozambique has made an unprecedented request to attend the next Commonwealth summit, to be held in Vancouver in October. The request is an unusual one at this stage, but key figures within the Commonwealth Secretariat, including Sir Shridath "Sonny" Ramphal, the Secretary-General, have been asked to sound out the Commonwealth governments about it.

The issue is expected to be raised in private discussions when Commonwealth ministers from the Frontline African states arrive in Botswana next Thursday to attend a meeting of the Southern African Development Group (SADCC).

The Secretary-General has accepted an invitation to attend some Commonwealth governments view Mozambique’s request as a first step to applying for full membership of the organisation, although Sir Shridath said this week such speculation would be misleading.

"I am very pleased with their interest, and yet, they are our Commonwealth cousins, but this is not the same as full membership," he said.

Mozambique wants to attend the summit as an observer, but even this form of participation would be a major break with tradition as non-Commonwealth governments have never been represented at such summits.

South Africa will be hugh on the agenda of the Vancouver summit and if Mozambique is admitted as an observer, other Commonwealth Frontline states are expected to enroll its support for tougher sanctions against Pretoria.

Britain sees Mozambique’s interest in the Commonwealth from a different perspective.

The Foreign Office has long held the view that Mozambique, regardless of its Marxist underpinning, is trying to chart a more independent foreign policy, away from dependence on the Soviet bloc, and the latest initiative is further evidence of this trend.

Relations between Maputo and London blossomed under the late President Samora Machel, British aid to Mozambique more than trebled between 1983 and 1985, and it is set to increase still further.

The Mozambican Army is the only non-Commonwealth force so far to receive British military help with training.

Maputo searches for SA investors

Preteris Correspondent

As Frontline States unite in their support of sanctions, Mozambique has turned to South Africa for foreign investment and three contracts with South African companies are expected to be signed within the next two months.

During an interview at a Johannesburg hotel, National Director of Economy and Planning deputy of Mineral Resources, Mr Goberto Nhazona, commented: "Mozambique has no capacity to apply sanctions. The world is applying sanctions against previous regimes.

"South Africa. We have to develop our economy. Security guarantees, financial repatriation, and income-tax concessions are included in the package designed to attract investors."

Mr Nhazona has been directing his advances at companies interested in mineral investment.

The three contracts in the pipeline involve bentonite, a clay used as an absorbent and a filler, coal and precious and semi-precious stones.

"We are trying to have closer relations with South Africa," Mr Nhazona said. "It will be easier for us to sell our products within the region as we now have some money to buy what we need."

Holbert helps team to win Daytona race

DAYTONA BEACH — IMSA Camel GT champion Al Holbert, in his Porsche 962 Prototype, yesterday helped his team to a two-in-a-row victory in the Daytona 24-hour sports car endurance race.

With Derek Bell, Al Unser, Jr. and Chip Robinson he won the top prize — with the team doing a record 573 laps, covering 4,313.23 km at an average speed of 173.626 km/hr.

The Chevrolet Corvette GTP of Sarel van der Merwe and Doc Bundy retired with mechanical problems — Sapa

Necklaced nightclub owner emerges as 'ruthless gangster'

By Craig Kottke, Crime Reporter

Recent court cases involving necklaced Johannesburg nightclub owner Mr James Murrell have painted a picture of a ruthless gangster who did not hesitate to mutilate or kill those who opposed him.

Even after his death, he managed to embarrass the police when anonymous allegations were made that members of the Repton Murder and Robbery Squad were implicated in his necklacing.

The allegations were investigated, but no evidence has yet been found to link them to the killing.

UNDERWORLD LIFE

Details of Mr Murrell's underworld life came to light soon after his burial. They were found under a heap of tyres in Zuurboom in December.

The funeral was only a day after a R300 000 borgs gem robbery at a luxury Johannesburg Hotel in which the former boxer was involved.

It was learnt that Mr Murrell had apparently been double-crossed there previously during an illegal coal deal. Mr Mzwathi Mthaha (36) told a German magazine how Mr Murrell had tortured him and cut off his ear after the abortive R30,000 deal.

But charges against Mr Murrell and one of his former employees, Mr Johann Schitte (37), were dropped after Mr Murrell was found necklaced.

Mr Murrell and Mr Schitte had been charged with kidnapping, armed robbery, assault with intent to do grievous bodily harm, possessing as police officers, possession of a shotgun without a licence, car theft and dealing in unwork gold.

Last week a Johannesburg magistrate heard that Constable Keith Black was threatened with death by Mr Murrell after a couple were trapped in a heroin deal at his nightclub, Club Africa, in August last year.

The couple, who pleaded not guilty to dealing in and possession of the drug, are Mr Johann Schitte (37) and his wife Linda (31), of Johannesburg.

Last week Robin Taylor (30) told a Johannesburg magistrate how he was too frightened of Mr Murrell to pull out of the fake robbery. His claim was rejected and he was jailed for eight years.

Currency devalued by over 400 pc

MAPUTO — Mozambique devalued more than 400 percent and a new income tax announced at the weekend.

The measures are part of a tough economic recovery programme, but some political parties and state officials have been exempt from income tax.

The Mozambique News Agency, AIM, said income up to 19,000 meticais (R102) is to be taxed at six percent and anything over that at 18 percent.

State employees, the Frelimo Party and the mass democratic organisations are exempt from income tax, as are people earning less than 5,000 meticais. AIN added.

In addition, the National Reconstruction Tax has been formulated and is set at R18 for residents of the provinces of Maputo, Gaza and Inhambane and Bica city, and at R18 for the rest of the country.

Indirect taxation was massively increased.

A package of excise duties, which up to Friday cost R5, 760, now carries 1,468 meticais in tax alone.

Postal, phone, tele, electricity and water charges have all risen.

Consumers now pay double for electricity.

The national currency, the metical, was devalued by 425 percent.

The new rate is 200 meticais to the US dollar at the bank buying rate and 204 selling.

But a 50 percent increase across the board was in line with the rise in costs through the country was also announced — The Star's Africa News Service
MACHEL. They are the culprits": a banner headline in the Johannesburg newspaper Beeld proclaimed as the Margo Commission of Inquiry ended its hearings this week.

"They" were the Soviet flight crew. "We"—the South African authorities accused of planting a bomb to kill Mozambique's president to his death—had been acquitted.

The headline referred not to the findings of the commission, only to the summing-up arguments by lawyers appointed by South Africa. But this did not dampen the euphoria.

And the high point of the final day of the inquiry was when Foreign Minister Pik Botha volunteeered into the witness box to state his country's case.

Botha told the court that the crew members were innocent and could have been the result of a "conspiracy". The cockpit voice recorder was audibly proof that the ground proximity siren had failed to sound before the plane crashed.

According to evidence before the commission, the alcohol content in crew members was negligible and could have been the result of decomposition. He was asked if he had overdosed statements to the media, which in the wake of the crash, had caused him to drink.

Botha explained that trusted officials had supplied him with the technical details, but as the news of the ground proximity siren had not been working,

"I said to them, 'Gimme some technical data which will be considered incontrovertible, just release this to the world and stop the rumour that South Africa is to blame'." Botha explained, "It is the wrong information I regret it was assured it was right'.

He had explained minutes earlier, "The alternative was to sit back and let the United Nations take over its own inquiry'.

"They argued that the flight crew, in allaying the Soviets to descend unchecked—contrary to the rules of flying—had been the primary cause of the crash.

John Coetzer, SC, who represented the department of Law and Order, Defence, Foreign Affairs and Transport, asked the commission to reject completely the 'specious' rumour that a false beacon had caused the crash.

Puckrin said the probable cause of the plane's tail end exploded. The five-man crew, he said, had failed to file a flight plan, carry enough fuel to divert to Beira, which was not as the alternate landing point, fly at the required flight level of 37,000 feet to avoid mid-air collisions, or to verify navigation aids.

The captain, Puckrin said, had not monitored the flight or taken action when it dropped below the minimum safe altitude. The crew had ignored the ground proximity warning alarm, and, although they were lost, had failed to use basic navigational instruments.

Judge Margo and his five-person panel revealed their findings behind doors considering the evidence. They are expected to release their findings to the Munster of Transport in about two months, after Mozambique and the Soviet Union have been given an opportunity to respond to the commission's report.

"The day after the Margo inquiry began, the Freinsino government demanded that the Mozambican, Soviet and South African experts continue their technical investigations in order to determine the facts about the radio signal that the Soviet plane crashed with its flight path. Causing it to make a fatal 37-degree turn to the south-west.

Freinsano claimed the tripartite commission was to be an expert "black box" flight recorders and prepared a factual report on the crash—was not the only one, which could be described as an "international commission of inquiry'.

"Evidence before the Margo hearing suggested the Soviet airman had locked on to the VOR—very high frequency direction—radio navigational reading at Swaziland's Matshaka airport by mistake.

The Tupolev crew had flown into and out of Maputo dozens of times, landing at night 70 percent of the time. At least one of the plane's VOR receivers had been set to the correct frequency for Maputo.

Mozambican aviation experts have disputed claims made towards the end of Coetzer's evidence calculation of the flight path that dispels the theory.

The experts consider it allows them to say that the Tupolev was the victim of a phony VOR.

None of this is to say that the Sovet crew behaved perfectly. They clearly did not. Towards the end of the flight they made mistakes that had to have taken no notice of the ground proximity warning system.

The Mozambican government has made no formal accusations against South Africa.
MNR claims 134 dead

LISBON — The Mozambican National Resistance claimed that they sabotaged a strategic oil pipeline for the third time in a month and occupied four towns in attacks last Sunday, killing 116 Frelimo troops and 18 Zimbabwean soldiers.
Turning Mozambique inside-out

The IMF and World Bank are putting up money as part of Mozambique’s drive to revive its shattered economy, PAUL FAUVET reports

MOZAMBIQUE has embarked upon an ambitious programme to revamp its war-shattered economy with the support of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

IMF austerity programmes often have unhappy results. The recent food riots in Zambia followed a pattern already established by urban unrest in recent years in countries as varied as Egypt, Tunisia, Morocco, Libéna and Ghana, but the Mozambican programme is not a simple replay of previous formulae. Indeed, it seems that Mozambican officials have resisted some IMF demands.

Negotiations with the IMF, which Mozambique only joined in 1984, went on for much of last year and a final round is expected early next month. Mozambique is hoping for an IMF loan and the figure of $25 million (about R165 million) has been mentioned.

A loan from the World Bank’s soft loans affiliate, the International Development Association (IDA), of $45 million (about R299 million) is being implemented. Further finance from IDA is dependent on agreement with the IMF.

The programme approved in Mozambique’s parliament lays down base guidelines and principles. Exact figures and percentages will be worked out by the economic ministries in the months ahead.

As explained by Prime Minister Mario Machungo, the key to the economic recovery programme is the boosting of agricultural production, with the stress not on the state farm sector, but on peasant family farming.

He wants to see a dramatic increase in producer prices for the major food and export crops, and the Gdaing of consumer goods to the countryside, thus giving peasants an incentive to produce and market a surplus.

But while the government aims to make rural life in the countryside more attractive, city-dwellers will face redundancies and higher prices and rents. Strict budgetary constraints will apply to the entire state sector. Bank credit has been tightened and the issuing of new banknotes is restricted.

Workers will need their pay increases, since prices too are going to climb. From February rents are no longer tied to the tenant’s wages. Hence, different types of houses in different areas will have different subsidies, while those of private means, unemployed or in the informal economy will face the full rent increase.

For the first time, hospital charges have been introduced, but the majority of the population will not have to pay them.

Taxes are also increased, in a complete revision of the Mozambican fiscal system. The basic sources of the State’s tax revenue are now duties on profits and capital gains, and indirect taxes on non-essential goods.

The new tax system is directed specifically against those who, in the last five years of war and shortages, have accumulated capital, both through legal mechanisms and through the black market. At the same time, tax incentives are offered to Mozambican investors, particularly where the investment results in export.

The Guardian, London

Fuel up and taxes up

WEDNESDAY’S steep fuel price increases in Mozambique follow hard on the heels of the country’s 80 percent devaluation of its currency, the metical, and sweeping tax increases.

The comprehensive tax and price increases are the latest step in Mozambique’s economic recovery programme. Approved two weeks ago by the Mozambican parliament, the people’s assembly.

The measures and the new fiscal law were published on Saturday in an eight-page supplement to the Maputo daily Noticias. The fuel price hike was announced on Wednesday.

They followed Friday’s announcement of a 50 percent rise in pay throughout the country, and the devaluation of the metical to 202 meticais to one US dollar, from about 39 meticais to the dollar. The governor of the bank of Mozambique, Enes Comuche, said the measure was necessary to adjust the exchange rate.

Mozambique moves rapidly ahead with a comprehensive economic recovery programme.

The system of direct taxation has been changed to introduce an income tax. This replaces part of the national reconstruction tax, which was in effect income tax. Now income up to 10,000 meticais is taxed at the rate of six percent and anything over this amount at the rate of 15 percent.

While payments to company owners, shareholders and board members are to be taxed at the higher rate of 15 percent, people falling into a range of categories — state employees, members of Frelimo and “mass democratic organisations” — are exempt from income tax, as are those earning less than 5,000 meticais.

The national reconstruction tax has been reformed to “represent the minimum contribution required of every citizen to the public purse”, according to the fiscal law. This tax is set at 1,500 meticais for Maputo and Beira cities and for Maputo, Gaza and Inhambane provinces, and at 1,000 meticais for the rest of the country.

Those unable to work, in compulsory military service, peasants, women, housewives and students are exempt from national reconstruction tax.

Production and service cooperatives will pay income tax for the first time, although the fiscal law allows for temporary exemption in the case of unfavourable climatic conditions or other crisis situations.

Taxes on beer and cigarettes were substantially increased, while fares for road, rail, sea and air transport have gone up sharply. Electricity and postal tariffs have all risen.

Among measures in the economic recovery programme still expected to be announced are rent increases and the prices of some basic commodities — AIM and Sapa-Reuters.
MNR claims hitting pipeline, four towns

LISBON — A strategic oil pipeline had been sabotaged for the third time in a month and four towns occupied in attacks on Sunday, the MNR said.

It also said it had killed 116 government troops and 18 Zimbabwean soldiers in the attacks.

An MNR spokesman here said the rebel movement's forces had occupied Mazanga in north-west Tete province, forcing 500 Mozambican and Zimbabwean troops to flee over the nearby border into Zambia.

He said MNR guerrillas might have to cross into Zambia in pursuit of the troops. No more details were given.

The spokesman said MNR forces had blown up the pipeline carrying oil from the Mozambican port of Beira to Zimbabwe.

The attack in the so-called Beira Corridor — which includes a railway and a road and is a vital lifeline for Zimbabwe's landlocked economy — was the third claimed by MNR in a month.

Zimbabwean troops are helping to guard the corridor.

The spokesman said MNR forces had also occupied the towns of Moge in Tete province, Savane in central Sofala province and Lugela in northern Zambezi province on Sunday.

In assaults on the last two towns, MNR guerrillas had destroyed two tanks, seven armoured cars and 17 other military vehicles.

There was no independent confirmation of the clashes. Mozambique's Marxist government rarely comments on claims by the MNR, which has fought to topple it since soon after the country became independent from Portugal in 1975.
Mozambique will remain socialist — Chissano

ARGUS Africa News Service
MAPUTO — President Joaquim Chissano has said that the ruling Frelimo Party would remain committed to socialism in spite of recent agreements with the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

Mr Chissano's remarks follow the implementation of a series of tough economic measures aimed at rehabilitating Mozambique's economy.

These measures include the end of free medical aid and the dismissal of workers from state-owned companies which will be reorganised to make them profitable.

President Chissano assured party officials that the Government's new policies did not mean the party had abandoned its plans for socialism.

Mozambique's currency, the metical, was devalued by 439 percent last week. The new rate is 200 meticais to the US dollar at the bank buying rate. Before devaluation the official rate had been between 37 and 40 meticais to the dollar.

Frelimo Party members and State officials were exempted from a new income tax, which is part of the Government's tough economic recovery programme.

The Mozambique News Agency Aim said that income up to 10,000 meticais (about R1060) was taxed at the rate of six percent and anything over that amount at the rate of 15 percent.

"Employees of the State, the Frelimo Party and the mass democratic organisations are exempt from income tax, as are people earning less than 5,000 meticais," Aim said.

Several dramatic price increases were announced last week. A packet of cigarettes, which cost 83 meticais, now carries 168 meticais in tax alone. Following the near 200 percent increase, a packet of 20 cigarettes will now cost R2.60 in Mozambique.

The price of a 600ml bottle of beer has also been increased by 200 percent and now costs R2.60.

Across-the-board

Postal, telephone, telex, electricity and water charges have also almost doubled.

The devaluation was, however, accompanied by the announcement of a 50-percent across-the-board increase in wages throughout the country.

It was reported that Mozambican rebel officials have arrived in the Portuguese capital of Lisbon to prepare a meeting of the insurgent movement's foreign-based representatives, guerrilla-linked sources said.

The sources, who asked to remain unidentified, said that the foreign affairs secretary for the Mozambican National Resistance Movement (MNR), Artur Janeiro Fonseca, and "a special envoy from the interior" had arrived.

Mr Fonseca is based in West Germany, a possible venue for a fullscale MNR meeting involving rebel officials from Portugal, the United States, Kenya and Malawi.

MNR leader Afonso Dhlakama appears determined to strengthen his movement's political wing abroad in the wake of recent military victories in central and northern Mozambican provinces.
300 refugees a month through Park

By Dirk Nel,
Northern Transvaal Bureau

Refugees from Mozambique are still entering South Africa through the Kruger Park at about 300 a month.

Venda and Gazankulu citizens told The Star that "scared and footsore Shangaan people" were arriving at regular intervals at northern outposts.

Many were women carrying babies on their backs, and some had walked 200 km, judging from their stated villages of origin.

Gazankulu Secretary of Health Dr R. Robert said relief committees were operating in several districts with refugees being identified and registered by tribal authorities and health clinics.

He estimated the present influx of refugees at about 300 a month.

Accurate statistics are impossible in respect of others coming into the country through Zimbabwe and a narrow corridor between Venda and Limpopo.

Dr Robert confirmed that most of the refugees had been registered and treated at hospital at Acornhoek in the Eastern Transvaal since October 1983.

Since then about 20,000 refugees had been provided with food and shelter by relief committees operated by his department.

Operation Hunger and other sources believe the number of refugees in Gazankulu to be closer to 10,000.
SA’s ‘long-term’ refugee problem

The Argus Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG — Refugees from Mozambique are likely to be “a long-term problem” for South Africa says Vice-Admiral R A Edwards, secretary of the Ministerial Co-Ordinating Committee of the Nkomati Accord.

The influx from Mozambique was expected to increase by 10 to 15 percent, he said.

At present there are 300 000 Mozambicans in South Africa, 80 000 legal workers, 70 000 “refugees” and 150 000 illegal work seekers scattered around South Africa, particularly in the PWV area.

Since March 1986 the Department of Home Affairs has issued 50 000 provisional permits to Mozambican refugees in Gazankulu and Kangwane.

Repatriated

The permits — which entitle an “illegal alien” to a six-month stay in a defined area and access to short-term assistance — apply only once Shangaan, Zulu and Swazi refugees have reached the safety of their respective tribal affiliates in Gazankulu, KwaZulu and Kangwane.

“Illegal aliens” caught en route were repatriated, Vice-Admiral Edwards said.

The assistance — food, clothing, medicine and shelter — were provided by local governments, the State, relief organisations like the Red Cross, Operation Hunger, the Salvation Army and churches, particularly the Catholic Church.

There were no refugee camps, he said. People stayed at temporary assembly points only until the local chief assigned a piece of ground, he said.
On the opposite coast: same war, same ravages

STEVE ASKIN reports from Inchope Village in the Mozambican province of Manica

Mozambique was a victim of war when the forcibly displaced were repatriated. In the town of Inchope, in the Manica province, the situation is critical. The town is densely populated with large numbers of refugees, and the local population is struggling to cope with the influx. The town is divided into a Muslim and a Christian section, and the division is加深ened by the presence of the military. Violence and instability are common in the area, and the situation is exacerbated by the political and economic challenges. The town is a microcosm of the wider conflict in Mozambique, and the people here are facing a range of challenges, from food shortages to lack of access to basic services. The situation is dire, and the people are struggling to make ends meet. The future looks bleak for the people of Inchope, and it is clear that the war in Mozambique is far from over.
Mozambique rebels surrender five towns and bridge

Argus/Africa News Service

MAPUTO. — In a major military operation involving airborne troops, Zimbabwean and Mozambican soldiers have recaptured a major bridge over the Zambezi River and five important towns from rebels of the Mozambique National Resistance movement.

The Mozambican authorities have so far remained silent on the successes and analysts say it is unlikely that they will comment, since officially it was not acknowledged that the towns and bridge had fallen into rebel hands.

There has been no mention of the successes in the state-controlled Mozambican media.

Reopen rail link

Analysts here say that it appears the aim of the offensive against the MNR was to reopen the railway line linking the port of Beira to Malawi. Four of the five towns are along the strategic railway line.

According to the Zimbabwean authorities the following towns have been retaken by government troops:

- Vila Nova da Fronteira on the border between Malawi and Mozambique and the last railway station inside Mozambican territory on the line linking the two countries.
- Mbitara on the east bank of the Zambezi River which controls access to the bridge over the Zambezi River.
- Vila de Sena, which controls access to the bridge on the west bank of the river.
- Casa, an important town on the west bank of the river where the railway line turns south towards Beira. In the operation to recapture the town, Zimbabwean used airborne troops, it was announced in Harare.

The Zimbabweans said another town, Baue, had also been retaken from the rebels but it is believed here that the Zimbabweans might have been referring to the town of Ri-baue, in Nampula province, near the rail line linking the port of Nacala to Malawi.

Last year MNR rebels launched a major offensive in Zambezia and Tete provinces, capturing a number of towns from the demoralized and ill-equipped Mozambican army. They are also known to have been operating in Nampula province.

Since then the Mozambican government has asked for greater Zimbabwean and Tanzanian involvement in the war in Mozambique, but this is the first time that it is officially acknowledged that Zimbabwean troops are actively involved in operations as far north as the Malawian border.

Rebel base

An offensive against the MNR-held towns has been expected for some time and there have been suggestions that the Mozambican army had been unable to make advances against the rebels.

Eighteen months ago Zimbabwean troops were also called in to storm the main rebel base — Casa Banana — at Gorongosa in central Mozambique. However, Mozambican troops abandoned the base shortly afterwards during an MNR attack.

Zimbabwean troops guard the vital Beira corridor and the road linking Zimbabwe to Malawi through Tete province.
Major victory over MNR claimed

From MICHAEL HARTNACK

HARARE — The Zimbabwe National Army has caught the Mozambique resistance movement by surprise in a series of major attacks on its strongholds near the Malawian border, the Zimbabwe Broadcasting Corporation has reported.

The rebels were understood to have felt secure in the dense bush of the lower Zambezi valley until the coming of the dry season. But British-trained paratroops and helicopter-borne assault forces stormed into Mozambique's Tete province recently, overcoming the tactical disadvantage of heavy foliage cover and sending hundreds of the routed insurgents fleeing once more into Malawian territory, the ZBC reported.

It said five key settlements were recaptured and more than 100 rebels killed, including a "General Antonio". An unnamed battalion commander was captured.

One of the Zimbabwean commanders of the assault, Brigadier Mutarara, is reported by the official ZBC to have said that the Zimbabweans were prevented from mounting a complete mop-up operation because this would have necessitated advancing into Malawi.

Among the items captured by the Zimbabweans and their Mozambican allies were B85-pattern radio sets, alleged to have been supplied by South Africa, as well as mortars, rocket launchers and communist-made AK45 assault rifles, it was said.

Coming before the end of the rains, the early successes could spell major trouble for the MNR, who have relied on the Tete province as a safe haven for training and resupply.

According to Zimbabwean sources, the settlements recaptured were Vila Nova, Vila Caisa, Felix, Vaue and Mutara.

Since strategically-situated Mutara fell to the rebels last November, the railway line from Beira to Malawi has been cut.

The area was swamped by a rebel onslaught at the start of the rains. This was blamed by the Zimbabweans on Malawian President Hastings Banda's sudden expulsion from Malawi's southern provinces of fully-equipped MNR reserves.

The Malawians hotly denied harbouring the rebels, but were alleged by Zimbabwe to have ordered the expulsion in compliance with an ultimatum from frontline leaders, without first disarming the insurgents.

The response of President Banda to the renewed MNR influx is being closely watched in Harare and Maputo.

In line with past policy, the Zimbabweans did not disclose their casualties in the latest operation, but four airmen, reported to have been killed in an accidental crash in Mozambique, were buried at their homes with full military honours at the weekend.
Mozambican pupils learn to hate apartheid

The Star's Africa News Service

MAPUTO — Mozambican pupils start their school year today learning about apartheid as a crime against humanity.

Mozambique's Education Minister, Ms Graca Machel, announced at the weekend that the first day of school would take the form of a day of struggle against apartheid.

Schools were told to organise activities on the theme "Apartheid is a Crime Against Humanity".

Said Ms Machel: "The main crime of apartheid is the distortion, the deformation of human awareness. Apartheid distorts millions of people, altering the way in which they view themselves and their understanding of humanity."

The day of action against apartheid, she said, should be aimed at ensuring "ideas of racial discrimination are never implanted in the heads of our own young people".


SA ‘destabilization’ blamed for high infant mortality rate

LONDON — Infant and child mortality rates in Angola and Mozambique are now estimated to be the highest in the world, according to a report by the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF).

War, economic destabilization and drought are given as the main causes for these shock statistics.

For instance, last year 140,000 children died in these two Southern African territories alone.

The report lays the blame on the effects of war and South Africa’s policies of apartheid and economic destabilization.

UNICEF is seeking aid from the world community. Its executive director, Mr. James Grant, took a first step in this direction when he saw the British Minister for Development and Cooperation in London soon after the report was released.

The report states: "Drought, floods, lack of access to hard currency, falling terms of trade, rising debt service, the legacy of past mistakes in domestic policy all play a part in undermining the health and welfare of the children of Southern Africa."

But the main culprits are war and economic pressure.

"Their targets are not only economic and military but the social fabric of nations. The deaths stem from destruction of health and education facilities, the dislocation of communications, the loss of food production and the constriction of health and water budgets as a result of war."

The loss of output, of export earnings and government revenue together with the destruction of health facilities prevented the distribution of food and medicine. These were the costs of war and economic destabilization.

While the report deals mainly with Angola and Mozambique as the two territories hardest hit, it claims that the economies of Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe have all suffered from South Africa’s policies of apartheid, economic destabilization and armed aggression.

They were also forced to maintain minimum high levels of security expenditure, the study claimed. The total impact of this enforced austerity on infant and child health, malnutrition and mortality was considerable.

But while UNICEF points the finger of blame chiefly at destabilization by South Africa, or with its alleged complicity, it does include other factors such as drought.

But the report does draw attention also to the drought and economic recession. However, in approaching the nations of the West for aid, it is an anti-South African scenario that will be played out in the corridors of government ministries.

This report cannot fail to influence attitudes, Whitehall sources said.

But in referring to other factors, the report draws attention to the fact that each state of Southern Africa has suffered at least one season of drought since 1978-1979.

In addition, failing terms of trade and rising debt have exacerbated the problems of financing imports of foods as well as drugs and vaccines, and of servicing national budget expenditure, including health, education, water, drought relief and supplementary feeding, according to estimates.

In a chapter headed "The Price of War", the report claims that the widespread and continuing conflict in Angola and Mozambique has been virtually ignored as most of the world’s attention has concentrated on South Africa and Namibia.

In addition, Malawi, for example, had suffered financially from the sabotage of transport routes through Mozambique. According to estimates, the diversion of traffic through Zambia, Zimbabwe and Botswana to South African ports had at least doubled Malawi’s previous freight costs.

Economic destabilization in 1986 alone had included the blockade of Lebombo, the report claims, and interfered with transit shipments to Zambia and Zimbabwe.

**Military actions**

The type of support UNICEF is seeking can be divided into three categories — immediate emergency help and long-term aid.

- "Easing of transport, power, industry and food production, as well as rehabilitation of the health, education and water systems and building up the stockpile of emergency supplies, would play a direct part in limiting the number of cases of economic and military actions."

- Health, nutrition: pure water supply and the opportunity to produce and be employed which educative programmes on care of life — indeed to the question of life and death," the report states.

- It was urgent that action be taken now, not only to alleviate the costs of past and present military actions, but to create the capacity to resist an, cope with future actions.

The international community has an obligation to help the Southern African states and their people to halt the spiral of rising deaths and deaths, deterioration in the quality of life," the report concludes. Co-operation required between a wide range of bilateral, multilateral and non-governmental agencies to mobilize and coordinate the huge and complex programmes of assistance required.
About 140,000 children died in Angola and Mozambique alone and continue to die at the rate of one every four minutes.

Grim reality of child deaths in Africa

The children of the Frontline states are facing death in incomprehensible numbers as a result of war and economic destabilisation.

Latest figures show that about 140,000 babies under the age of five died in Angola and Mozambique alone last year — and continue to die at the rate of one every four minutes.

Oxfam and the Save the Children Fund officially designated Mozambique an emergency area last week. The country is virtually on its knees because of the double disaster of widespread crop failure and the war with South African-backed rebels. At the same time officials reported that tens of thousands of children face starvation, and three million people are homeless.

The scale of what has been described by aid officials here as “an African holocaust that threatens to eclipse even Ethiopia”, is revealed in a grim document issued by the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF).

The report stresses that the children are dying, not as a result of gunfire, but from preventable disease and malnutrition made worse by economic destruction and war.

It covers the situation in all nine countries of the Southern African Development Co-ordination Conference, but concentrates on the children of Angola and Mozambique, where the effects of the violence and death are greatest.

The report protests that “targets in war are not military ones”.

In Mozambique:
- More than 700 health facilities have been destroyed since 1981.
- At least two million people have been deprived of the most basic health care as a direct result.
- With medical facilities destroyed, health workers killed, maimed and kidnapped, and vaccination programmes suspended in many areas, the mortality rate, particularly for under-lives, has increased dramatically.

In Angola figures are far from complete, but:
- Delivery and use of health services have declined by 30 percent throughout the country.
- About 20 vaccination points were destroyed in 1985.
- The exact number of deaths among civilians and health ministry staff because of the war is unknown.

“But what is known,” the report says, “is that health workers, as well as clinics and other health posts, schools, teachers and pupils, foreign aid personnel and vehicles transporting health and relief supplies, are all deliberately chosen as targets to cause a breakdown in civil administration and to make large areas ungovernable.”

The decimation of the infant population comes as a particularly cruel blow for Angola and Mozambique.

In 1980, officials were hoping that new health, education, water and food strategies would reduce the under-five mortality rate to levels comparable with Tanzania’s — about 105 per thousand.

These programmes, like Tanzania’s, placed emphasis on primary health services, especially immunisation, basic drug provision, mother and child clinics, ante-natal and birth care, and access to safe water, massive literacy programmes and improved nutrition and food production.

But, in the next five years, these hopes were dashed. Tanzania’s mortality rate continued to decline, in spite of the ravages of drought, while the other two countries’ rose dramatically, wiping out all the gains of the immediate post-colonial period.

By the beginning of 1986, infant and child mortality rates in Angola and Mozambique were the highest in the world.

“The agonising reality,” says the UNICEF report, “is that today’s war is trampling them underfoot and cutting them down by the thousands.”
Mozambique soldiers take refuge in Zambia

LUSAKA — Fears are growing that the bitter Mozambican bush war could spread as scores of Frelimo government troops are reported to be fleeing across the border into Zambia.

Renewed fighting with rebels of the Mozambique National Resistance movement (MNR) forced 150 Mozambican troops to take refuge in Zambia's eastern province late last week. They have since surrendered to the Zambian army.

Already Zambia has about 29,000 civilian refugees from the war who are housed in 20 camps along the border with Mozambique. But it is the first time Frelimo troops have sought refuge in Zambia.

So far there has been no official comment on the arrival of the troops, but foreign journalists confirmed the arrival of at least 40 at Mitie camp on Sunday. They were taken away in a Zambian vehicle, correspondents said.

MISSIONARY

Zambia's official silence reflects Lusaka's delicate regional position. As a fellow frontline state, it provides moral support to the Maputo government.

The government did, however, say that about 8,000 refugees from Mozambique have entered Zambia since the beginning of this year.

The latest influx raises the total number of Mozambican refugees in Zambia to 29,000, according to official figures reported by the government-owned Zambia News Agency.

- An Italian missionary shot by guerrillas in Mozambique has returned to Italy for medical treatment, Vatican Radio reported yesterday.

It said Father Santo Canova flew to Milan on Sunday. His right arm was in a sling and he was in hospital in Verona.

Father Canova was wounded last week when guerrillas believed to belong to the MNR attacked a convoy escorted by soldiers, the report said.

A Portuguese nun was also wounded.

CHISSANO VISIT

Meanwhile it is reported from Maputo that President Joaquim Chissano of Mozambique is to start a three-day official visit to Zambia on Thursday.

It is likely that President Chissano and President Kenneth Kaunda will discuss the situation on Zambia's border with Mozambique.

And he will hold talks on the situation in Southern Africa and on bilateral relations.

It will be President Chissano's first visit to Zambia since he took office in November.

His predecessor, Mr Samora Machel, was killed in a plane crash in South Africa while returning from a frontline summit in Zambia in October. — The Argus Foreign Service, Argus Africa News Service and Sapa-AP.
HARARE — The Zimbabwe National Army has caught the Mozambique resistance movement MNR by surprise in a series of major attacks on its strongholds near the Malawian border.

The rebels were understood to have felt secure in the dense bush of the lower Zambezi valley until the start of the dry season. But British-trained paratroops and helicopter-born assault forces stormed into Mozambique's Tete province last week, sending hundreds of the insurgents fleeing once more into Malawian territory.

Five key settlements were recaptured and more than 100 rebels killed.

One of the Zimbabwean commanders of the assault, Brigadier Mutarara, is reported by the official Zimbabwe Broadcasting Corporation to have said the Zimbabweans were prevented from mounting a complete mop-up operation because this would have necessitated advancing into Malawian territory.

Among the items captured by the Zimbabweans and their Mozambican allies were BBS-pattern radio sets, allegedly supplied by SA, as well as mortars, rocket launchers and communist-made AK45 assault rifles.

Observers in Harare noted that the operation took the Zimbabweans far north of their customary centres of operation along the strategic Beira Corridor.

Coming before the end of the rains, the early successes could spell major trouble for the right-wing rebels who have relied on the Tete province as a haven for training and re-supply.

The new offensive was agreed upon between Zimbabwean Prime Minister Robert Mugabe and Mozambican President Joaquim Chissano at the recent meeting at Victoria Falls.
Machel crash: crew blamed

LISBON — Former United States astronaut Mr Frank Borman, who took part in an inquiry into the plane crash that killed Mozambique’s President Samora Machel last year, was quoted today as saying he was sure that errors by the crew were the main causes.

Mr Borman said in an interview published in the Lisbon daily Diario de Noticias that allegations that President Machel’s Soviet-piloted plane had been deliberately lured off course were ridiculous.

Mr Borman was part of a six-man commission of inquiry which concluded hearings in Johannesburg last month.

President Machel and 34 others died when their Soviet-made Tupolev-134 jet crashed just inside South Africa on October 19.

“I think there is no doubt, after an exhaustive investigation, that the main causes of the accident stemmed from a mistake by the pilot and from the fact that the crew continued to descend between the clouds, without being sure about their height or their position,” Mr Borman said.

He said that was the unanimous opinion of the commission.

Asked about allegations by Soviet officials that a false radio beacon had lured the plane off course, he said:

“That is absolutely ridiculous. Nobody with the slightest knowledge of aeronautics believes in that allegation.”

The Soviet Union and Frontline African states have suggested South Africa was involved in the crash. South Africa has denied this allegation. — Reuters

Mulholland changes plans

OWN CORRESPONDENT

DURBAN — Television and stage personality Gordon Mulholland reported to the Playhouse Theatre in Durban yesterday, within 24 hours of being asked to stand in for comedian Terry Lester, who suddenly fell ill and could not appear at a series of Rotary charity shows for the Elandsfontein Centenary Research Fund this weekend.

Mulholland, who had lined up a dinner party at his house tonight, cancelled the arrangements, promised his friends that he would make it up to them next week and travelled to Durban before the curtain went up at 6 pm.

Lester is down with a pancreas ailment, and doctors have ordered him to be in bed while getting treatment.

TRAVEL: Tales of two continents...

Page 12

vays Holidays
'50 killed' by MNR

MAPUTO. — Anti-government rebels killed about 50 civilians and sabotaged five state-owned tea factories in a recent raid, the Mozambican news agency reported yesterday.

The news agency, AIM, said the attack by several hundred Mozambique National Resistance rebels occurred on February 12 in the central province of Zambezia.

Two of the five tea-processing factories were wrecked beyond hope of repair, and the total cost of the damage ran into millions of rand, AIM said.

It said the rebels also burnt several dozens of tea which had been piling up in the district's warehouses because transport routes had been severed by fighting.

Thousands of men, women and children have found refuge in a railway yard at Moatize in the Tete province, where many are sleeping in freight cars, the Sunday Mail newspaper reported — Sapa-AP
Country of chaos

Dateline: MOZAMBIQUE

Tens of thousands of Mozambican peasants are being held in slave labour camps which anti-government rebels have created as supply bases for an escalating guerrilla campaign.

The campaign is gradually reducing large parts of the country to chaos.

The existence of the camps, each containing about 3,000 prisoners, has been reported by escaping inmates who are among the refugees continuing to flee daily, in their hundreds, from vast areas of the central and northern provinces.

Ruthless rebel activity there has now made more than a million people homeless and is threatening two million more with immediate starvation. Aid workers say it is the worst international disaster since the famine in Ethiopia.

Terrified refugees have been running before the fighting in increasing numbers for six months now. But it is only recently that among them have appeared groups who have escaped from the rebels’ slave camps.

Last week more than 2,000 who had escaped during the confusion caused by a government counter-offensive, reappeared in Namaamica in the remote northernmost Niasa province.

Most were naked. Others had wrapped themselves in bark from trees. Many of the children were suffering from diseases associated with malnutrition.

Spoke of their six-month ordeal

Two weeks earlier, 2,500 refugees appeared in a similar condition, near the town of Mutetere. This group has now been moved by the local authorities to a transit camp established in an abandoned Italian mission at the foot of the Muteue mountains.

The camp is nearer to the refugees’ original homes and close to the garrison town of Cuamba.

There they spoke about their six-month ordeal.

“The bandits came around 3pm when the sun was high in the sky. We heard no shooting. They just appeared before us, quietly, like cats,” said one of the escapers, Rosario Malumbe.

The guerrillas rounded up the 500 members of the Carau community and forced them to a camp at Mussala, deeper in the bush.

“The place was a village,” said another farmer, Tipatara Malumbe. “The local people were still there, working in the fields and preparing food for the bandits who live among them. We were told we had to work for the soldiers too. Then they went back to our homes and stole everything.”

Men beaten to death

He said the guerrillas beat two men to death after saying they were informers. They were given no food and had to beg from the people of the village.

After a month in the camp, increased activity by the government forces in the region prompted the MNR to march the entire population for six hours to a stronger, more remote camp at Mutepa.

“There were 3,000 people there,” said Malumbe. “We found that our first camp was there to guard this one. And Mutepa was there to guard a bigger base at Mepaige. There was a big camp at Mungoia, too. We learnt that from people who were moved.”

Until now some observers have assumed that the MNR must enjoy a measure of local support in these areas.

But the news from the escaping refugees gives credence to government claims that the rebels enjoy no support and are sustained only by South Africa and other parties intent on destabilising the frontline opponents of apartheid.

What is beyond question is the extent such activity is having on the 14 million population of Mozambique.

Dangers of starvation

Current figures, compiled from the reports of various UN agencies in the field, show that there are now 1,006,000 internal refugees in the country and 245,000 more have fled to neighbouring Malawi, South Africa, Zimbabwe and Zambia.

A further 2,531,000 people are affected by the conflict to the extent that, without international food aid, they are in danger of starving to death.

A limited amount of food aid has been forthcoming, but much of it is tied in warehouses in the ports.

The MNR regularly sabotages all the country’s railway lines and many areas are unsafe even for armed military convoys.

The result is that when the Mozambican Red Cross in Niasa was asked to help the 2,000 naked people in Namaamica with clothes and food, it had nothing with which to respond.

The Argus Foreign Service in London reports that a group of eight Tory MPs have said, in a joint letter to The Times, that Britain should use its influence to bring about a reconciliation between Mozambique’s Frelimo regime and its Renamo opponents.

“Such reconciliation would in itself lead to the reopening of the Beira railway. It would end the fighting which is the main cause of suffering for the Mozambican people, and might lead to the establishment of a regime which would encourage private investment, without which there is little hope of stability or prosperity.”

Groups of refugees who have escaped from rebel slave camps have reappeared in Niasa. Most were naked, others had wrapped themselves in bark from trees, reports PAUL VALLEY of The Times.
Escaping refugees reveal MNR slave camps

By Paul Valley of The Times

MAPUTO - Tens of thousands of Mozambican peasants are being held in slave labour camps which anti-government rebels have created as supply bases for an escalating guerrilla campaign - a campaign which is gradually reducing large parts of the country to chaos.

The existence of the camps, each containing about 3,000 prisoners, has been reported by escaping inmates who are among the refugees continuing to flee daily, in their hundreds, from vast areas of the central and northern provinces.

Ruthless rebel activity there has now made more than a million people homeless and is threatening two million more with imminent starvation. Aid workers say it is the worst international disaster since the famine in Ethiopia.

Terrified refugees have been running before the fighting in increasing numbers for the past six months. But it is only recently that among them have appeared groups who have escaped from the rebels' slave camps.

Last week, more than 2,000 had escaped during the confusion caused by a government counter-offensive, reappeared in Namaqua, in the remote northernmost Niassa province. Most were naked. Many of the children were suffering from diseases associated with malnutrition.

Two weeks earlier, 2,560 refugees appeared, in a similar condition, near the town of Mulungu. This group has now been moved by the rebel authorities to a transit camp established in an abandoned Italian mission at the foot of the Mitucue mountains.

REPORTS SUPPORT GOVERNMENT CLAIMS

Until now, some observers have assumed that the MNR must enjoy a measure of local support in these areas. But the news from the escaping refugees gives credence to the claims of the government that the rebels are not supported by the local people and are sustained only by South Africa and other parties intent on destabilizing the Frontline oppositions of apartheid.

What is beyond question is the effect such activity is having on the 14 million population of Mozambique.

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The result is that, when the Mozambican Red Cross in Niassa was asked to help the 2,000 naked people in Namaqua with clothes and food, it had nothing with which to respond.

From London, The Star Bureau reports that a group of eight Tory MPs say that Britain should use its influence to bring about a reconciliation between the Frelimo regime and its MNR opponents.

"Such reconciliation would, in itself, lead to the reopening of the Beira railway. It would end the fighting which is the main cause of suffering for the Mozambique people and might lead to the establishment of a regime which would encourage private investment, without which there is little hope of stability or prosperity," the MPs say in a joint letter to The Times.
Hunger threat facing 30,000

MASSINGIR (Mozambique) – Nearly the total population of Massingir district — 30,000 people — in the southern Gaza province are threatened with hunger because of drought and attacks by rebels, the national news agency AIM has reported.

Although most of Mozambique has received adequate rainfall, pockets of drought have persisted in the interior of Gaza and neighboring Inhambane province in the south of the country, AIM said.

Massingir, situated along the Elephant's River near the border of South Africa, has been particularly hard hit, according to the district administrator, Mr. Antonio Bula.

AIM quoted him as saying 312 cattle died last year when pastures dried up, and 4,700 head had to be moved from dry areas to the banks of the river. He said another 3,300 cattle were moved from areas affected by the Mozambique National Resistance guerillas fighting to overthrow the Marxist government.

AIM said officials are also concerned about a severe shortage of clothing in the area, saying some parents won't let their children go to school because they have no clothes — Sapa-AP.
Mozambique Folk

Mozambique Energy

Page 22

SOWETAN Friday 27 February 1997

By KEITH SOMERVILLE

FACE STARVATION

The experience of

There are several million children in Mozambique, some of whom are in desperate need of food aid. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has launched a relief operation to assist these children. The agency is working closely with local authorities to ensure that food aid reaches those most in need.

Horticulture

Production of fruits and vegetables is increasing in Mozambique. Farmers are being encouraged to diversify their crops to include fruits and vegetables that are not only nutritious but also profitable. The government is providing assistance to farmers to help them increase their production.

Food

The food situation remains critical in Mozambique. Despite efforts to increase food production, the country is still facing a food crisis. The government is working with international agencies to ensure that food aid reaches those in need.

The future looks bleak for many children in Mozambique. However, with the help of international organizations and the government, there is hope for a brighter tomorrow.
SA farmers accused of exploiting Mozambicans

By Susan Fleming

Exploitation by South African farmers is one of the biggest problems facing Mozambican refugees when they escape the civil war and famine of their own country, says the head of a relief group in Gazankulu.

According to the head of the Palabia relief committee in the Mzila district in Gazankulu, Mr. Sam Runje's farmers and workers at the refugee camp are collecting Mozambicans to work on the farms.

"Refugees cannot get jobs in South Africa because they don't have work permits, so when farmers offer them work they don't hesitate. They jump on the trucks and go to the farms," Mr. Runje said.

"But many don't get paid, and if they complain the farm manager will get the police to send them back to Mozambique."

"The farmers are too afraid to say anything. It's a sensitive issue," the committee head said.

Since 1983 thousands of Mozambicans have fled the famine and war in their own country. The conflict has spread across the Kruger National Park and into a new way of life in South Africa.

The local community and a lot of people have taken Mozambicans into their homes," he said.

Mr. Runje said the local farmers and workers at the camp have taken away all the refugees' identification cards and kept them in a closet.

"The refugees are afraid to ask anything. It's a risky business," he said.

"Since 1983 thousands of Mozambicans have fled the famine and war in their own country. The conflict has spread across the Kruger National Park and into a new way of life in South Africa.

The problem is that many refugees don't have work permits and are forced to work for free.

On arrival they are taken to the health clinic for medical treatment. Many have walked for more than one week and arrive suffering from dehydration, malnutrition and other diseases.

The refugees are given a blanket by the committee which enables them to food and blankets.

If after a week a house has not been found for a refugee he is allocated a site in a camp and builds his own home.

Mr. Runje said that the local community and a lot of people have taken Mozambicans into their homes. "They are very grateful," he said.

Mozambican refugees in this area have had contact with their family. He is in a wheelchair because of an injury in an accident in 1983.

"I miss my family very much and how I would like to who has happened to them," he said.

Mr. Runje first came to South Africa in 1983 and worked for a construction company until he fell ill in a crane and injured his spine.

He then spent eight months in the Natal Hospital.

MOSI HAD LEFT

"I left my family in the hospital. I decided that I would return to Mozambique in 1987 to find my family, but I caught the train to Pretoria and from there went to my home town to find my mother, Angeline, my brother, Carin and my sister Lusa.

"When I got there, I was told that my family had left because of the war and attacks by Renamo. Then I went to Maputo and asked them to find them, but had no luck.

"I decided to return to South Africa and I went back to Pretoria Hospital. The staff told me they had heard that a lot of Mozambicans had gone to Mozambique and so I decided to come here.

"The social worker took me to the Johannesburg Station and my wife and I bought a ticket for Bushbuckridge. But when I got on the train the people around me said there was no such place as Bushbuckridge and they told me to get off at the stand station.

"At the station someone took me to the vegetable of the vegetables of the vegetables. So far I have not been able to find my relatives."
SA sanctions are hurting Mozambique

— Chissano

President Joaquim Chissano of Mozambique has accused South Africa of applying sanctions against his country by cutting back on Mozambique’s two major sources of hard currency — labour and use of its railways and harbours.

In an interview with Leadership magazine’s publisher and editor Hugh Murray and former Opposition leader Dr Frederick van Zyl Slabbert, President Chissano blamed South Africa for jeopardising good relations between the two countries.

He said Mozambique had maintained relations with South Africa in spite of the military and material help it was giving to the Mozambique resistance movement, MNR.

President Chissano said South Africa had already decreased its exports through Maputo to 800 000 to 900 000 tons.

“We already have sanctions, but we are surviving,” he said.

“They will cut our workers in South Africa down to 30 000 (from 150 000), but we are surviving.”

President Chissano admitted that his country was “hurting” as a result, but added that the hurt experienced by the Frontline states was “not the issue”.

“The issue is whether they are going to hurt the economy of South Africa.”

He said Mozambique had not yet decided about imposing sanctions against South Africa and said that action was more likely to come from Zimbabwe.

“In Mozambique we are only dependent on South Africa.”

Commenting on Nkomati, President Chissano said the agreement prevented direct South African military action against his country.

“They do not dare to attack Mozambique directly using their forces, although they are constantly looking for pretexts on which they could justify such an attack.”

From the Mozambique side the Nkomati agreement continued to prevent his country from allowing the ANC to launch any military offensive against South Africa.

He said Mozambique would continue to support the ANC politically and diplomatically.
Chissano publicly rejects truce with rebels

HARARE — President Joaquim Chissano of Mozambique yesterday ruled out talks with the Renamo rebels threatening to topple his government.

"We won't share power with them. We say no because these hands are a product of colonialism and South Africa," he told a crowd of more than 40,000 at a rally.

It was Mr Chissano's first public rejection of any truce with the rebels since he assumed power last November following the death of President Samora Machel.

He vowed to wipe out the rebels and said blacks would triumph in their fight against South Africa.

Mr Chissano told guests at a dinner in his honour that South Africa was spilling the blood of Mozambican and Zimbabwean youth by backing the rebels.

"The only answer to these murderers of our people is, and always will be, an unrelenting struggle until they are completely obliterated to bring about the tranquility which the Southern African region so badly needs," he said.

Zimbabwe, chief ally of Mozambique, has nearly 12,000 troops helping guard vital transport routes threatened by the rebels. Officials have said Mr Chissano and Mr Robert Mugabe are seeking new ways of fighting the rebels.

Mr Chissano, in one of his sharpest attacks on South Africa, accused the Republic of making a concerted effort to destroy transport routes of Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Angola.

"The action of destabilization of the armed bands are concentrated on three vital points which provide alternatives to South Africa's ports."

"Thus the struggles which we are facing... are battles in a war launched against the free peoples of our region," he declared.

Mr Chissano said the war being waged by guerrillas in South Africa and against South Africa's rule of Namibia were just and had rightfully received global backing. "We shall soon celebrate the victory of the South African people over apartheid in Pretoria," he said. — Sapa-Reuters
Malawi to help fight MNR rebels

Argus Africa News Service
HARARE — Security forces from Malawi will help to defend Mozambique’s transport routes to the sea from attack by MNR rebels, President Joaquim Chissano said today.

President Chissano of Mozambique also said Tanzanian soldiers had begun to arrive in Mozambique as part of the anti-rebel drive. Thousands of Zimbabwean soldiers are already stationed there.

Until recently Mozambique and other frontline states accused Malawi of being a base for MNR forces.

It is understood from other sources that the Malawian security forces will protect the rail link to the northern port of Nacala.

President Chissano said the agreement reached with Dr Banda’s government meant Malawian security forces would be physically involved in protecting the route to Nacala.

He said “it is in their interest to make sure their outlet to the sea is free of bandits. Both of us will benefit from this.”

He did not elaborate on Tanzania’s participation.

Mozambique has also appointed a resident ambassador to Malawi. A military attaché will be appointed to the embassy staff.

President Chissano said South Africa was still supporting the MNR in contravention of the Nkomati Accord.

A recent Mozambican operation had halted rebel plans to occupy some coastal centres in Zambezia through which they had intended to obtain supplies by sea.

They might try again, he said, but they had been stopped for the moment.

Asked if a West African country had offered to send troops, the Mozambican leader said the manpower was available in the region.

It was the logistical support which was needed most from the Organisation of African Unity and the Non-Aligned Movement.

President Chissano leaves Zimbabwe today for Angola at the end of a four-day state visit.
Mozambique civil war has brought horror and hunger

NICOELALA. Northern Mozambique. — In the dry jargon of suffering, aid workers call it trauma — hopelessness, resignation. It is the end of the horror show. It is the end of the nightmare of fatigue, shock and hunger in Mozambique.

It is in the vast stances of hundreds of starving refugees crowding the towns and villages that the province of Zambezia and the surrounding areas are hardest hit by the civil war.

For years, these refugee camps have been home to hundreds of thousands of people displaced by the war. Now, with the conflict escalating, the situation is rapidly deteriorating.

Many refugees have been forced to flee their homes, leaving behind everything they own. They are now living in makeshift shelters made of whatever materials are available. The conditions are overcrowded and unsanitary, and the risk of disease is high.

Food is scarce, and what little is available is often contaminated or spoiled. Water is also a major issue, as many of the refugee camps lack proper sanitation facilities.

Medical care is non-existent, and those who are sick or injured have no chance of receiving treatment.

Children are particularly vulnerable to the effects of the civil war. Many have experienced trauma and stress, and their growth and development are at risk.

The government has promised to provide aid to the refugees, but so far, little has been done. Aid agencies are stretched thin, and resources are limited.

The situation is dire, and unless immediate action is taken, the consequences will be catastrophic.
Dutch pilot being held

MAPUTO — Mozambican authorities are holding a Dutch pilot who landed in the country from South Africa on Sunday, Mozambique's official news agency, AIM, reported.

Quoting a military source, it said last night that George Dor flew a microlight aircraft and landed at Ponta De Oura in southern Mozambique.

The Dutch Embassy in Mozambique's capital, Maputo, had been informed of the incident, the agency said, without giving any details.
Maputo to free pilot.

DURBAN. — Mr George Dor, the Durban micro-light pilot who accidentally flew over the Mozambican border six days ago is to be handed over to the Dutch Embassy in Maputo today. An elated Mrs Trudy Dor of Westville, said last night news of her husband's release was made to her in the evening by the Dutch Embassy in Pretoria. She said the hand-over would take place at 10am but she did not know what plans were to be made for his return to South Africa.
MNR leadership crisis

TOP MEN FIRED FOR 'CORRUPT, REGRETTABLE ACTIONS'

Johannesburg — The Mozambique National Resistance movement is facing a crisis in its external leadership, which combined with the recent successes of the multi-national forces stationed in Mozambique could throw the rebel movement into disarray.

This week the MNR announced that its former secretary-general, Mr. Evo Fernandes, had been expelled from the movement’s National Council and that its spokesman, Mr. Jorge Correia, had been expelled from the organisation.

They were accused of "corrupt and regrettable" actions but no further details were given.

However, there had been accusations in the past that Mr. Fernandes had made personal use of MNR funds.

Mr. Fernandes, however, will remain a member of the organisation although what he will be doing remains unclear since he lives in Lisbon.

For many months now there has been a struggle inside the organisation for the control of its foreign operations, with many Mozambican exiles claiming to be the true representatives of the organisation.

The whole external leadership of the MNR is plagued by personal conflicts and this has led to total confusion over who exactly represents the organisation.

The MNR's secretary for external relations, the West Germany-based Mr. Artur da Fonseca, said recently in Lisbon that he had a mandate for the MNR's president, Mr. Afonso Dhlakama, to reorganise the external leadership and strongly defended the performance of Mr. Fernandes.

However, at the same time another MNR representative, Mr. Mateus Lopes, claimed to have travelled out of Mozambique on the orders of the rebels' leaders, with the specific purpose of choosing new external leaders.

It is known that a former Mozambican ambassador to Lisbon, Mr. Joao Afaide, is supported by some Mozambican exiles in his attempts to become the movement's European representative, a position now being held by Lisbon spokesman Mr. Paulo Oliveira who lives in South Africa until the Nkomati Accord.

In Kenya there are at least two men claiming to be the Mozambican rebels' representatives there. One of them is Mr. Moses Nato, who says he is the organisation's secretary for information.

Mr. Chissano said last month that Zambia had also promised to help in the fight against the MNR but gave no other details.
SA arms shipment to MNR stopped, claims Chissano

HARARE. — Mozambican security forces recently smashed the latest attempt by South Africa to ship arms through the central province of Zambesi to the MNR, President Joaquin Chissano said here yesterday, the semi-official news agency Ziana reports.

President Chissano told a press conference South Africa continued to support the MNR despite the Non-aggression pact signed by the two countries in 1984.

He said the latest supplies were to help the rebels overcome the joint operations mounted in the country by Zimbabwean and Mozambican forces.

"They did not succeed because we acted in time to prevent the re-supply. This is the latest attempt by South Africa to give support to the bandits." President Chissano said that although some rebels fled into Malawi when Zimbabwean and Mozambican forces recaptured five towns in a joint operation last month, the agreement signed by the two governments would soon compel Malawi to take action against the rebels.

The two countries were working on a joint strategy to deal with the rebels, he said.

The agreement signed by the two countries would require the L. Longwe government to protect the Nacala route, Malawi's natural outlet to the sea.

Mr Chissano said the major task for his government was to eliminate the South African-sponsored rebels and start development projects.

In Pretoria, a spokesman responded to the allegations by saying that "the South African government has repeatedly stated it does not provide any aid or assistance whatever in whatever form to Renamo" — Sapa

Mozambicans brave lions and mines to flee to SA

KOMATIPOORT — Thousands of Mozambicans are trekking through minefields and lion-infested bush in a bid to cheat a 2,000-volt electrified fence to find shelter in South Africa from a bloody civil war at home.

Of the estimated 4,500 who make the hazardous trip each month, about a third are rounded up and quickly repatriated, officials here said.

At the Lebombo border-crossing on Wednesday, 80 disconsolate refugees, among them women with babies on their backs, were sent back.

As they shuffled wearily across the frontier, an official said some of the group would almost certainly make fresh attempts to flee Mozambique.

Some were barefoot, most clutched meagre possessions.

South Africa says about 240,000 people have crossed its border illegally, many of them refugees from the war which has ravaged Mozambique since independence in 1975.

Many refugees scale a 320km-long fence along the Mozambique border with the Kruger National Park.

Chief ranger Mr Bruce Bryden said there were at least two recorded cases of refugees killed by lions "human perseverance reaches extremes here," he said — Sapa-Reporter
Maputo's troops push rebels out of coast strip

Argus Africa News Service

MAPUTO — The Mozambican army has regained control of all the coastal areas in the northern province of Zambezia, the Mozambique news agency, Aim, has reported.

Aim said there had been heavy fighting between government and rebel forces throughout February in Zambezia.

Government troops had recaptured the administrative post of Mecane, in the southern coastal district of Chinde, from where 3,000 people had escaped when the village had been taken by the rebels in November.

The Mozambican army could now reach the island of Talha in the Zambezi delta where about 2,500 people were isolated. Previous attempts to reach the island had failed because of MNR ambushes.

Aim said that in northern Zambezia government troops had recaptured the small town of Nuala.
Losing battle to stem tide of refugees

KOMATIPPOORT — More than 50 illegal immigrants a day pass through this border post on their way back to Mozambique — captured and expelled as part of South Africa's effort to stem another of Africa's human migrations.

On a continent of unpolic ed borders, millions cross frontiers to escape war and famine. Many governments, unable to control population movement, accept refugees and often seek Western aid to feed and house them.

South Africa, at odds with its neighbours, is using park rangers, soldiers and a high-voltage electric fence in a bid to seal its border with Mozambique. So far, it is failing. The refugees caught and sent home keep returning.

"We caught one man 13 times. We believe he eventually 'got through,'" Mr. Johan Kloppers, head of wildlife management in Kruger National Park, told foreign correspondents last week during a government-organised trip to the Mozambican border.

Retired Admiral Ronald Edwards, a member of the joint South Africa-Mozambique security commission, told report-
FOR 90 minutes on Friday, seated in a leafy garden at the Presidential Palace, Mozambique's President Joaquim Alberto Chissano spent the first four months in power, his strengths and weaknesses. He spoke of continued South African support for Renamo and his unwillingness to negotiate with either party, his devotion to socialism and his relations with the West.

He called Samora Machel's death "a profound accident". Only when he comes to the end of his campaign will he have a chance to make his mark. Machel's death has an enduring legacy in his voice remains soft and low.

He appeared to enjoy the lengthy encounter with a wide-ranging interview that his name must be mentioned. As he considered carefully, acknowledging that the answers would not be clear cut.

Ravaged by a small village in CABA, Chissano has come out of Pretoria's most controversial public relations. He has not been praised over the five-week-old economic rehabilitation programme (PERI), with its 350 percent devaluation of the metical, the new currency set on course before Machel's death. They include a ban on a Sovet approved Amoror military plane.

At 47, President Chissano in two years past the country's average life expectancy. His task is exceptionally difficult.

Mr President, would you consider under any conditions negotiating with Renamo?

We know how hard the line was that was formed by the Fateh. We see that the way we had no reason to negotiate with Boitho, and we do not think of that. Because we are not who we said we were. We have no reason to negotiate with Smith. We don't have the reason to negotiate with Smith, we don't want to.

Given the track record, do you have faith that both parties are going to stick by the Nkomath accord?

South Africa is already not sticking to the Nkomath agreement. But it served the purpose of trying the right way, and so we and the international community have an environment with which to put pressure on South Africa. South Africa has to change its tactics. It's a hard task for South Africa to operate against us without the Nkomath accord. Of course, we would have preferred if South Africa had been dealt with by a national, international, and principled approach.

Do you have concrete evidence that they are supporting Renamo?

Up to January this year, I would say yes, currently we have evidence. But from January up until now, I have had very little information of what they are actually doing. They failed in several operations and they didn't carry on with threats against our country. They have plans to restructure the battles in a way in December and January, which were successful. They claimed to intend attacks in southern part of the country and part of the Maputo.

Do you plan to meet President Bc to discuss these matters?

I don't see any point. We have agreement. Until now we have been for a success meeting. I don't see the point. We will take the point.

They want a meeting, but they just are meeting out of nothing. They know what is it's very clear. We have delivered what we want. We went them to step properly support the battles. When they have stopped, they come with these new proposals. To go it without knowing what they want to tell us, it's my point. We would have done this if it had been for first time. But now, they have to do something fast.

There have been discussions about the miners' contracts?

We have not discussed. They took a verdict decision. The number of workers used to be about 120,000. Then it dropped 60,000 more or less and now they are about dropping at about 50,000.

That means a loss in terms of bond currency in terms of jobs, which we have to come.

South Africa is the main developed country that this region, and by design all the other ones were dependent on South Africa. Mozambique living by giving services to the other countries' as such an extent that the part of the Maputo designed in order to serve South Africa.

So South Africa has to change in order to have country like the one country is the one hidden by the dependence on South Africa. That is why they are against the Stora case. They are against the Lapopita, against the AICC. They are against the AICC freedom fighters, that but just an example of the noise that we are against for our own. If you regret you cannot offer some facilities to the ANC, as you...
JOAO CHISSANO SPEAKS

Isn't this contradictory with your close relations with the Soviet Union?

Not at all, because the basis is that we should be independent. We would not be used by one country against the other to be a pawn of one power or another. Mr President, in terms of your new reform program and the promotion of the private sector, do you or others on Frelimo not fear that this is eroding your original socialist ideals?

I don't think so. All that we do at Frelimo is assume prudence and we do question the last but taking decisions.

It cannot undermine the principles of socialism. We want prosperity of the economy. We don't have to take over everything from the private sector to turn it into the socialist sector, there was no private sector. And the collective work was something of an African nature. Socialism fitted very well in Mozambique.

Mozambique is managing for a change because of bad policies, because they, the 'bad people', did not know how to manage after the departure of the Portuguese.

This is not true. We were not prepared in terms of infrastructure. But once we came to power, we have acquired more ability in 16 years than we had in 400 years of colonialism or maybe even 500 years.

To get back to the point. What are your biggest problems in reforming the military and turning it into a more effective fighting force?

Logistics. The other problems we are overcoming the lack of experience, but you also have to get the support of international opinion. As the beginning stage to think that we were the cause of the disturbances in the area. But

The report says the (Michel) plane was deceived by a radio device placed outside Mozambique. But where?

By whom?

Today international observers are on the scene. Before they have created conditions for us to get more strength over the territory. The support which they give us is the same. There is a division of opinion in South Africa about it, I can say, and we are coming in the fight against the bandits.

The mere idea that you can come to power under tragic circumstances how do you look at the reality of Frelimo under Michel's leadership?

Michel was a dynamic man, more dynamic than I am. Full of energy, strong. I need a lot more support to make my decisions than he needed.

The difference is that he was more capable than I am. The unity of the people, which became very strong after the death of President Michel, that is very strong.

If I had not seen that unity I would not have dared come into this position. But when I would have left, I cannot do it. I don't have the trust. I don't have the strength.

I may say politically, definitely, we have the same sentiments - and besides we were very close friends. President Michel and a soldier, I am a soldier, he was a diplomat as I am a diplomat. He did not do any diplomacy without him and he did not do the fighting without me.

We lived together from the beginning. I knew him when he was a little man in the bush. He was younger than I, that's why we did not become closer at the time. But when we met for the second time, in February 1954, we became friends. We stayed in the same tent, under the same tree, changing blankets depending on which of us was sweating more from cold.

Do you think President Michel died in an accident?

I would say a provoked accident. That is confirmed by the (international) commission's factual report. The report says the plane was deceived by a radio device placed outside Mozambique. But where? By whom? This is not answered.
The West must draw up its own map for SA

Western corporations will have to make a much more decisive commitment to community and political groups—the era of "neutral" support in the form of welfare is not enough, argues ANTHONY SAMPSON in this extract from his new book on South African business BLACK and GOLD

Through the Sixties the multinationals had been glad to help extend both the economy and the military state. However much Western governments had co-opted and provisioned apartheid they had always played a role in diverting tactics from Pretoria, while their military and intelligence teams had encouraged Afrikaners to believe that the international community was unable or unwilling to stand against the government. But Western business and governments had now brought home the choice between apartheid and prosperity, to the point where whites as well as blacks had been kept at bay. Verwoerd's "grand apartheid" may always have been an illusion, but the visible signs of fencing off were more than mere symbols, they were a costly economic failure in the Sixties it could convince Afrikaners that the rule of the whites was too expensive and that the blacks and Indians had no future.

It was an economic failure in the Seventies, that began to discourage that apartheid ideology, and it was not the political correctness, but the marketers and the white businessmen who had been forced to re-examine their policies and stop the posturing and playing the posturing.

Britain's prime minister, James Callaghan, had to hold a second conference of states in the early 1970s, to discuss the position of South Africa, and the other Western powers, including Mrs Thatcher, saw them in similar to the Sixties, as a threat to their future, and even the "Indian Lady" was uncertainty, but she is still about to visit the country.

They had never had to choose between economic development and political correctness, because they had comfortably got both. "The man of the country is a "handbag,"" commented Mr Oliver Tambo, in 1978.
Moscow's reformer stretches the limits of his mandate

Mikhail Gorbachev stepping out from the nuclear shadow

The man who led the Soviet Union to its dissolution in 1991, Mikhail Gorbachev, has been described as a reformer who pushed the limits of his mandate. His policies, including glasnost (openness) and perestroika (restructuring), aimed to modernize the Soviet system and reduce its reliance on nuclear weapons. However, his actions were constrained by the ideological and political landscape of the time. Gorbachev's speeches and reforms were often praised, but his real successes were limited by the resistance and division within the Soviet Union. His efforts to maintain a balance between change and the risks of instability ultimately contributed to the collapse of the Soviet Union. The legacy of his reforms continues to influence global politics and international relations today.
WASHINGTON — Mozambique is the scene of more human suffering than any other nation, while Switzerland is the most comfortable place to live, according to a Washington population group.

The analysis by the International Index of Human Suffering, was released yesterday by the Population Crisis Committee. Using data from a variety of sources, the committee has developed a numerical scale of human misery with more than 100 nations rated between zero and 100.

"Our basic message is to get a snapshot of the world and how we're doing, and for much of the world we're not doing very well," said Dr. Joseph Spiedel, vice-president of the Population Crisis Committee.

The index is a numerical measure of the quality of life in different countries. Among the elements included are the gross national product per capita, inflation rate, labor force growth, increase in urbanization, infant mortality, per capita calorie consumption, access to clean water, energy consumption, literacy and general personal freedom.

Mozambique was rated at 95 on the scale, the most suffering recorded. Angola, on Africa's opposite coast, recorded 91 and was the only other nation with a misery rating of over 90.

At the other end of the scale, Switzerland was given a misery rating of only four.

The United States had the fifth lowest misery rating with a score of eight. Others in the best five were West Germany, Luxembourg and the Netherlands.

The ratings of human misery generally ran parallel to population growth, with nations gaining people the fastest among those with the most suffering, Dr. Spiedel said.

Mozambique scored suffering ratings of 10 in eight categories, departing from the bottom in only two areas.

It scored a nine in access to clean drinking water, indicating that between 11 and 19% of its residents have such water. To get a top rating, would require clean water for 92% of the population or more.

Other nations near the bottom of the ratings included Chad and Afghanistan, where there are wars or civil unrest.

At the more comfortable end of the scale, Switzerland scored a perfect zero suffering rating on every category except per capita energy use, where it rated a four — Sapa-AP.
Argus Africa News Service

RUSHINGA (Zimbabwe) — About 200 Mozambican refugees flock into north-eastern Zimbabwe every month and workers estimate that up to 12,000 will be living here by the end of the year.

Between four and six million Mozambicans are facing starvation this year and a global appeal for about $300,000 tons of food and other necessities worth more than $200 million dollars has already been launched.

The refugees, fleeing fighting between government troops and Mozambican National Resistance rebels, are joining more than 48,000 others already living in Zimbabwean camps run by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

Their home in northeast Zimbabwe is the Mazowe River Bridge Camp — a sprawling 150-hectare site surrounded by lush green jungle — about 30 km from the border with Mozambique.

The camp was built for 6,000 refugees but officials say they are now stretching its capacity to 12,000 because of expected new arrivals.

"If we stretch our limit beyond 12,000 we will displace Zimbabweans to accommodate displaced Mozambicans," according to camp administrator Goodson Sithole.

Some refugees walk hundreds of kilometres from the war zones to the camp some never make it but die from hunger and disease, officials said.

Between 500 and 700 of the 2,000 outpatients treated each month at the local hospital are Mozambicans, officials said — Sapa-Reuters.
THERE was an old saying, 'when two elephants fight at the grass that suffers.' This sums up the misery of the thousands of Mozambican refugees in the north-eastern Transvaal. Caught in the crossfire between Frontline forces and the National Resistance Movement (Renamo) insurgents villagers left all their possessions—cattle, houses, crops—and in some cases even to face yet another wave of refugees on South Africa's border.

Over 15,000 refugees are housed in tents and special villages while some of them have been adopted by families in the area between Skukuza in the south and Mavelo in the north. The tents and mud huts, with makeshift beds, dot the landscape. Buildings which were only a day's travel from the Mozambique border were destroyed.

Animals

Some walked for up to 20 days to get to the camps. The killing of animals by Renamo and Zimbabwean forces has been severe. Mothers and children have been eaten by the animals. In the words of a 7-year-old boy who watched the murder of his entire family, 'I was very sad.'

In the middle of all this, the villagers escaped with goods that were stolen by the soldiers of Renamo.

By force

Young men were forced to fight for their homes and their villages. Many of them were killed. The village of Nkombo, in the area of Renamo, was severely affected. The village was burned down and the people were forced to leave.

Rebellion

Mozambique was a colony of Portugal and many Mozambicans were opposed to colonialism. The rebellion was led by the Frelimo movement.

Conclusion: the dream of the triumph of the revolution under the leadership of Frelimo was to be the liberation of Mozambique from Portuguese colonialism.

The MFM rebellion collapsed and led to the overthrow of the Portuguese government. The Mozambique government was overthrown and a new government was established under the leadership of Frelimo. The Mozambique government was replaced by the Frelimo government led by Armando Guebuza.

The Mozambican government was established in 1975 and has since maintained its power and influence in the country.
70'000 refugees repatriated

MAPUTO - More than 70,000 Mozambican refugees are being repatriated from Malawi under a joint programme with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

The director of the Mozambican office assisting refugees and liberation movements, Mr Anorade Fazenda, said this in an interview in Harare yesterday.

Last year Mozambique and Malawi were at odds over Malawi's alleged support for the Mozambique National Resistance rebels fighting the Mozambican Government.

However, the Daily Dispatch's correspondent currently touring Mozambique reported that the rebels were getting less support from Malawi because of the operations of the joint security commission between Malawi and Mozambique and were being squeezed into the central region of the country.

Mozambique's former ambassador to Ethiopia and Frelimo's spokesman for external affairs, Mr. Alberto Sithole, said the Zimbabwean Government had provided schooling, clothing and food for the thousands of displaced Mozambicans in the border areas.

"Armed bandits are killing, kidnapping and ransacking villages and causing endless hardships for the people. It is a very serious situation and we need the support of the international community," said Mr Sithole.

On the Nkomati Accord and South African backing of the bandits, Mr Sithole said Frelimo and its government did not, by signing the accord, mean that it agreed with apartheid.

"We continue to give our support to the African National Congress and the struggle of the people of South Africa," he said.

Meanwhile, an academic at the Centre of African Studies of the Eduardo Modiane University here, Mr. Rob Davies, has claimed the Nkomati Accord was signed after nearly R2,3-billion damage was caused to the Mozambican economy by armed infiltration into the south of the country from South Africa.

South African support for the bandits has increased since Nkomati, he said.

A recent South African plan to resupply the rebels with 250 tons of arms had been thwarted and the military in Pretoria had been unable to open up supply lines along the coastal region, Mr Davies claimed.

He said that as a result of the rebels getting less support from Malawi, South Africa was infiltrating more armed bandits into the southern part of the country — Sapa

Mozambique's misery P8

157
At this time of the year the area around Bushbuckridge is very green. The lush vegetation has blossomed thanks to the rain of the past five months.

The village of Belfast, about 40 km north east of Bushbuckridge, is, at first glance, like any other in the area. On the western end of the village is a cluster of low mud huts with thatched roofing.

This is Humulani literally translated to mean "stop crying" Humulani is home for about 500 Mozambican refugees who arrived in the area to escape the war being waged by the Mozambique National Resistance Movement (Renamo) against the government of Mozambique.

The more than 35,000 refugees spoke of the wanton murders of innocent civilians by Renamo which is allegedly backed by South Africa. They spoke of the journey through the Kruger National Park, of hunger and of attacks by wild animals. They are heart-rending tales of misery and suffering.

Mrs Alice Ngobeni, 31, arrived at Humulani in November last year from Maputswene in Mozambique. "The day before we left people of Renamo came into the village and killed 11 people. They did not talk to anyone. They just killed them. We realised that there was no life there and we left."

"There was no time to take our things. We took just food which ran out after two days. Thereafter we drank water from windmills. We lost a lot of things. We had many cattle that we left behind. Renamo caused us a lot of problems. The soldiers of the government never troubled us."

Renamo kidnapped our men and sons and forced them to join them. If you refuse you die. They put bombs on the road to stop the government from supplying food to the villagers. It was very bad.

We walked for six days. There were about 200 people in our group. We had heard that some people who left earlier were left Renamo in very bad health. They came into the village and raped women. They took our cattle and killed many people. Our sons were taken by force and we have never seen them again. We don't know what they are fighting for.

We came in a group of 39 people. We didn't know where we were going. We have heard that there were people who spoke Shangaan in a place called Gazankulu in the west. We just followed the sun.

"At sunset we slept in the wild. We put a stick pointing where we were going so that we could know the direction to follow the following morning. Our food lasted for only two days and we had nothing left thereafter. We walked for six days and most of the time without food. We drank water where elephants bathed," she said.

The towns Zululand and Nkoma lived through the experience and were hanging around their mother as she spoke to us.

About 15 km from Humulani is the site of Mozambique's refugees

CAUSES BIG MIGRATION

"SOFT LAWS" writer MATATHA TSEDO and photographer LEN KUMALO continue their story on Mozambican refugees. This is the second of a three-part series.

"A farmer would call the police to arrest the workers and have them deported to Mozambique. Husbands are known to have left families in the camp only to find themselves back in Mozambique."

Other camps are situated in Luwuka Malamule and many other areas stretching over 350 km. The refugees complained of lack of jobs and land to plough but appreciated the relief work of various organisations.

But there are long term problems of what to do with the refugees.
250 000 have fled war-torn Mozambique

Mercury Correspondent

HARARE—Up to 250,000 Mozambicans have fled into neighbouring countries and 15% of the country's 14 million people have been displaced from their homes areas by war and famine, the United States roving ambassador for refugee affairs, Mr Jonathan Moore, said here yesterday.

He said in an interview that he had heard estimates of 30,000 Mozambicans in South Africa, more than 75,000 in Zimbabwe (against official Zimbabwean estimates of 48,000) and at least 100,000 to 140,000 in Malawi.

Mr Moore, on a tour taking in Malawi, Zimbabwe and Mozambique, said he aimed to focus on humanitarian issues, avoiding the military and political complexities of the civil war situation 'as far as possible'.

He believed strict monitoring would prevent US aid being diverted to become logistical support for the Right-wing Mozambique Resistance Movement.

Food is being distributed in eight border refugee settlements and subsidiary villages in Malawi under a $15 million ($21 million) 2 year programme channelled through the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

Mr Moore said he had held frank discussions with top Government officials in Zimbabwe, who showed no distrust for US involvement in aiding the Mozambicans.

State Department officials have repeatedly denied official claims here that the United States is giving covert encouragement to Renamo.

Mr Moore described the situation in Mozambique as 'tragic and extraordinarily serious'.

The number of refugees fleeing into Malawi alone had doubled since an upsurge of fighting last November, he said.
Class to amend schools legislation

Referring to Houtkool Manor Park's management council, Chase said when considering the resignation demand, the council's main consideration should have been whether the members still had the confidence of the majority of parents.

The council had rejected a demand from parents, supported by Chase, to resign.

The school's Parents Action Committee is pressing the council to rescind its earlier decision to refuse the use of the school's squash courts to black pupils from mixed schools.

Committee chairman Louis Raubenheimer says: "We intend keeping up the pressure on a number of issues including the squash courts.

The Northern Transvaal Schools' Squash Association has refused to use the courts until they are opened to mixed schools, he says.

This has disrupted the fixtures — they had played none for the past four weeks — of the schools' 26 squad teams.

The management council's term of office only expires at the end of the year.

"So, unless legislation can be changed to give a majority of parents the right to sack a council, it looks as if we are saddled with this one until then," says Raubenheimer.

250,000 refugees have fled

Mozambican exodus claim

HARARE — Up to 250,000 Mozambicans have fled to neighbouring countries and 11% of the country's 14-million people have been displaced from their home areas by war and famine, US roving ambassador for refugee affairs Jonathan Moore said in Harare yesterday.

He told Business Day he had heard estimates of 80,000 Mozambicans in SA, more than 75,000 in Zimbabwe (against official Zimbabwean estimates of 48,000) and between 100,000 and 140,000 in Malawi.

Moore, on a tour of Malawi, Zimbabwe and Mozambique, said he aimed to focus on humanitarian issues, avoiding the military and political complexities of the civil war "as far as possible".

He believed strict monitoring would not prevent US aid being diverted to become logistical support for the MNR, the right-wing Mozambique resistance movement.

Food is being distributed in eight border refugee settlements and subsidiary villages in Malawi under a US$15m-a-year programme channelled through the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR).

Moore said he had held frank discussions with top government officials in Zimbabwe, who showed no desire for his involvement in aid, but resistance to "solutions".

IN BRIEF

FCI and Assocom in "talks about talks"

THE presidents of Assocom and the Federated Chamber of Industries (FCI) held talks this week amid business pressure for closer cooperation between the two bodies.

Assocom's Arnold Gross and the FCI's Hugo Snickers met on Tuesday for what were described as "talks about talks".

Both confirmed yesterday an informal meeting took place, but said no firm proposals were made. They added the issue of an Assocom-FCI merger was not raised.

Group Areas 'destructive'

BUSINESS should put its collective weight behind pressures to abolish the "destructive" Group Areas Act, Urban Foundation executive chairman Jan Steyn told the Association of General Banks last night.

"While this Act is in existence, black management development will not succeed, because successful managers are a product of an urban middle and upper-middle class culture, the development of which the Group Areas Act denies to black people," Steyn said.

Scientific subsidies about to fall away

PRETORIA — The multi-million rand government subsidisation of scientific councils could be slashed by 50% through contract research and services.

The councils affected are the Council for Mineral Technology, the CSIR, the Medical Research Council and the SABS.

SABS director-general G P Verster said yesterday that during the past few years the bureau had earned up to 70% of its funds from the private sector.

He said: "Our view is the bureau's activities and investigations must be paid for by those benefiting from the mark scheme, testing inspections and other services.

Basically the aim was that taxpayers' money should not be used to subsidise those services. However, preparation and publication of specifications which did not directly benefit any particular organisation was a national responsibility, where State subsidisation was justified.

Verster said there was still scope for expansion of the bureau's services to the private sector. He said: "We strive continually to become more independent of State aid."

A CSIR spokesman said in 1985 about 26% of total income derived from services to the private sector. That was at 7.5% growth compared with the previous year. In 1985, 129 research projects were undertaken for the private sector.

He said a decision had been taken to make the council more industry oriented so private sector contracts could be expected to increase.
Mozambican exodus claim

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Moore said he had held frank discus-
sions with top government officials in Zimbabwe, who showed no distrust for US involvement in aiding the Mozambicans.

State Department officials have repeatedly demurred official claims in Harare that the US is giving covert encouragement to the MNR.

Moore described the situation in Mozambique as "tragic and extraordinarily serious".

The number of refugees fleeing into Malawi alone has doubled since an upsurge of fighting last November.

The UNHCR yesterday announced plans to repatriate nearly 70,000 refugees from Malawi — about half the total of Moore's estimates.

Machine to blame

HAMISH McINDOE

The probe into the technical aspect of the power failure will be complet-
ed within a week.

Esscom's southern Transvaal re-
gional manager Hennie Harmse said equipment used to improve voltage at a sub-station feeding Johannesburg had been malfunctioning since Sun-
day.

He said problems with it and hu-
man error had caused a chain-reac-
tion that blew the system.
THE storeroom at Ndzimba Bottle Store is crammed with crates of beers, wines and other spirits. Also in the storeroom are blankets, bags of maize meal, soup, cooking oil, salt, sugar and candles.

An innocent peeping Tom could be excused if he thought Mr Sam Ndzima, the owner, was running an underground general store on the sly. But nothing could be further from the truth.

Because Mr Ndzima is a former photographer for the now banned World and Weekend newspapers, who achieved worldwide prominence with his June 16 picture of Hector Peterson, chairman of the Philis- tan Relief Committee for Mozambican Refugees in the northeastern Transvaal.

The clothing and food in the storeroom is the everyday fare of life and death for the thousands of Mozambican refugees who are accommodated in the Malelo district of the Gaza- ndu district of Mozambique. It is a huge and non-rewarding task for a man who has to divide his attention between caring for refugees and running his little business, comprising a hotel, a bar lounge, a record bar and a photographic studio.

When the first refugees arrived in the Malelo village in 1984 local villagers opened their hearts to them. But with the enormous influx of 1985, the Mozambicans realized that the Independent Peace Accord between South Africa and Mozambique was not going to bring an end to the war with Mozambique and became clear that the villagers could not cope.

Several church organizations and private organizations streamed in to offer assistance but this was not enough. We then decided to form a religious committee so that all the organizations could work together.

Mr Ndzima explained that the motive of the committee is "Together we care". And looking at the records of Mr Ndzima's possession, it is possible to make the programme so that food and sanitary supplies are not wasted.

The programme includes food distribution, help to obtain primary health care, help to build shelters, help to start small businesses, etc.

Mr Ndzima also believes that the refugees are victims of the war in Mozambique and they are caught in a crossfire.

Our problem right now is a long term one. To start with, the government would arrest them and send them back to Mozambique. They say the people who are not refugees are illegal immigrants. One wonders whether the Portuguese who also fled from Mozambique were treated the same way.

Our committee and the Mozambican Government have negotiated for their stay in Gwanzu until the end of the war in Mozambique. The war does not seem to be ending and these people cannot live hand to mouth. The men need jobs but there are none in Gwanzu. Children do not even find work.

When the refugees move outside Gwanzu they are arrested and deported to Mozambique.

The problem is that these men leave their families here. Our long-term goal is to arrange for the government to help them set up in Mozambique.

We have been promised some land for this purpose but nothing has come of this so far, says Mr Ndzima.

Mr Ndzima said the attitude of the South African Government which has been accused of supporting the Mozambique rebels was "deplorable".

School

The United Nations High Commission for Refugees sent a delegation here after Mr Ndzima appealed for assistance.

The delegation later indicated that it could not help as the South African Government did not recognize refugees as such.

Clinics

Mr Ndzima said he was not aware that clinics are located 30 km from the area for more than two years.

He said his government would not chase anyone away and would always give them "sympathy and support".

With the blankets and beds of all the people who have fled their homes, they are better off. Families, however, cannot depend on handouts for ever.

The solution to the problem is to end the war in Mozambique.

When the war ends we will all be happy again."
62 000 "M'bicans"
facing serious 
food shortages

TETE (Mozambique) — About 620 000 people in Tete Province — more than half the province's population — face serious food shortages, the national Mozambican News Agency reported yesterday.

The news agency quoted the provincial director of the national disaster-control agency, Mr. Rocha Nuvunga, as saying the number threatened by famine in Mozambique's westernmost province was up from 456 000 in December.

Mr. Nuvunga said the shortages were caused by renewed drought and activities of Mozambique National Resistance guerrillas. The guerrillas, opposed to the government of President Joaquin Chissano, raid villages and transport facilities in most of the country's 10 provinces.

Mozambique says the South African Government continues to aid the guerrillas, despite a three-year-old mu-
tual security pact.

South Africa denies the claims.

Mr. Nuvunga said the expected return from Malawi of some 70 000 Mozambican refugees complicated the food problem.

Tens of thousands of Mozambicans have fled to Malawi, Zambia, Zimbabwe and South Africa to escape the war. — Sapa-AP
Keep your troops out, MNR tells Malawians

LISBON — The Mozambican National Resistance has told Malawi not to send troops to protect the railway between landlocked Malawi and the Mozambican port of Nacala.

An MNR statement distributed in Lisbon said Malawi's President Banda would "suffer the consequences" and "pay a high price" No specific action was mentioned but the statement added "The MNR can destroy the Nacala rail line once and for all."

The rebels have also warned foreign technicians working on the line to leave Mozambique Canada, Britain, Italy, France and Portugal are backing a multimillion project to upgrade the railway to give landlocked Southern African states' exports easier access to the sea and to lessen their economic dependence on South Africa.

The line to Nacala has often been a target of sabotage by the MNR which has fought Mozambique's Marxist government almost since the country became independent from Portugal in 1975.

Power pylons destroyed

Zambia, Tanzania and Zimbabwe all support Mozambique's President Chissano against the MNR and the last two countries have sent troops to reinforce Mozambique's army. Mozambique once accused Malawi of harbouring and helping the MNR but late last year the two countries signed a border security agreement.

An separate MNR military communiqué said its guerrillas early yesterday destroyed 83 electricity pylons and sabotaged water supplies to Beira, Mozambique's second city. Industry was stopped.

The communiqué added that MNR forces had killed 14 Mozambican troops and militia and seven Zimbabwean soldiers in the past eight days. Destroyed a locomotive in Gaza province and captured two government barracks at Mucuene and Mapungwe in southern Inhambane province.

The MNR has also told international relief organisations to send emergency food aid to rebel-controlled areas of Mozambique as well as to government-held zones. Relief groups have said nearly a third of Mozambique's 12 million people are facing starvation, mainly as a result of the civil war.

An MNR spokesman also told reporters in Lisbon that three Italian priests — Vitorino Biasoli, Enzo Toller and Onorino Venturini — and a Portuguese nun would be released soon — Sapa-Reuters
The Star's Africa News Service

MAPUTO — Zimbabwe businessmen could soon be increasing their usage of the Mozambican port of Beira following a visit to the city by a Zimbabwe National Chamber of Commerce delegation.

The delegation, led by Mr Arthur Chapman, was driven from the border to Beira on Monday in what observers see as an attempt by the Mozambican authorities to show that the Beira corridor is free of rebel attacks.

The delegation visited the port on Monday and yesterday and held discussions with the Mozambican authorities.

The Beira port director, Mr Gabriel Mabunda, told the Zimbabwean delegation that the port had the capacity to handle three million tons of cargo a year but nowhere near that amount of goods was currently passing through Beira.

Two goods trains travel the line in each direction everyday but the Mozambican authorities insisted that the railway could easily take three.

During the visit the Zimbabwe delegation was told that since October last year Zambia has been using Beira to export copper.

At a reception in a Beira hotel on Monday night, Mr Chapman said the "second and third hand myths about Beira" had been "totally confounded" by his experience.

"Everything went like clockwork," he said. "It is up to us to take the message back to Zimbabwe and persuade our exporters and the people we import from to consider shipping through Beira," he said.

He said he would commit the companies he represented to send shipments through Beira.

The chairman of the Beira Corridor Authority, Mr Rui Fonseca, pointed out that Zimbabwean exporters would pay about R620 less a container if they used the port of Beira instead of Durban.
MNR makes bold bid to boost its image

LISBON — Mozambique National Resistance (MNR) rebels — dismissed by the Maputo government as “armed bandits” and alleged to be backed by South Africa — are seeking to convince the world they are a legitimate national liberation movement.

The MNR has sought to topple Mozambique’s government almost since the state became independent from Portugal in 1975.

MILITARY GAINS

But despite recent military gains, it has so far failed to convince Western governments that it is a genuine, independent alternative to Frelimo.

“They (MNR) are a powerful military force, but have never had, nor worried about having, a solid political structure,” says Mr Xavier de Figueredo, an expert on former Portuguese Africa and editor of the Lisbon weekly, Africa Confidential.

MNR’s international position contrasts with that of Angola’s Unita rebel group, which enjoys open United States support and is sympathetically regarded in the West.

PRESS CAMPAIGN

The MNR has in recent months launched a diplomatic and press campaign to counter allegations that it has no serious political programme and no internal backing.

The campaign includes increasing invitations to Western journalists to visit rebel-controlled areas of Mozambique.

This has been orchestrated mainly from Lisbon, the movement’s traditional information outlet to the world.

High-ranking MNR officials often pass through the Portuguese capital on public relations trips, and in recent months there has been a big increase in MNR war communiques and statements distributed there.

Like Unita, the MNR maintains its principal public relations operation in Lisbon, although both groups also have permanent representatives in Washington, London and Bonn.

STRAINED TIES

This situation is tolerated by the Portuguese government, but the presence of MNR and Unita representatives in Lisbon has in the past strained ties with the Maputo and Luanda governments.

Reports from Maputo and from foreign journalists reporting from government-held areas, paint a picture of indiscriminate violence by MNR guerrillas.

They cite attacks on mission stations, schools and clinics, looting, kidnapping and alleged atrocities.

International relief organisations blame the “war being waged by the MNR” for making thousands homeless, for disrupting a largely agriculture-based economy, and threatening nearly a third of the 12 million population with starvation.

But journalists who have visited areas held by the rebels in the north and centre of Mozambique tell a different story.

TIP OPINION

“They are well-trained, well-disciplined, well-entrenched and have grass-roots support,” said one Western journalist who recently visited MNR bases.

Mr De Figueredo said signs of MNR’s growing military power could help to tip world opinion in their favour.

“If Western nations have doubts about Frelimo’s military capacity and there is an escalation of the war, then if Renamo (MNR) manages to create a better political image, this will be in their favour.”

An MNR “political action programme” dated January 12, 1987 described its guerrilla war as “a national liberation struggle aiming at the eradication of a Marxist-Leninist dictatorship.”

The document said MNR aimed to give Mozambique a multi-party system and a democratically-elected government.

It backed private enterprise and a market economy.

MNR’s political organisation consists of a national council headed by the group’s 33-year-old president, Mr Anson Dhakama.

“Ideologically, Mr Dhakama is a primary anti-communist,” said a Western journalist.

SHADOWY PAST

But many Western observers maintain serious reservations about MNR’s identity, its backers, and its objectives.

“The image that MNR has is one of a movement without nationalist credentials,” a senior Washington diplomat recently told reporters in Lisbon after a visit to Mozambique.

In addition to refusing to recognise the MNR, the United States and western Europe have increasingly wooed the Maputo government, which they see as a moderating influence in southern Africa — in contrast to Angola’s more hard-line pro-Soviet rulers.

MNR’s image is tainted by its shadowy past. Western diplomats say it was formed in the 1970s by the security services of then-white-ruled Rhodesia to try to stop Frelimo creating an independent Marxist state.

They say it received support from former Portuguese colonialists, and in 1980 was allegedly taken under the wing of South Africa’s security forces as a weapon against Frelimo.

The MNR insists that these links no longer exist.

According to the MNR, the South African support ended in 1984 when Pretoria signed the Nkomati Accord with Maputo — Sapa-Reuters
MNR seek to establish credibility

LISBON — Mozambican National Resistance (MNR) rebels, dismissed by the Maputo government as ‘armed bandits’ allegedly backed by South Africa, are seeking to convince the world that they are a legitimate national liberation movement.

MNR, also known by its Portuguese acronym Renamo, has fought to topple Mozambique’s Marxist People’s government almost since the African state became independent from Portugal in 1976.

But despite recent military gains it has so far failed to convince Western governments that it is a genuine, independent alternative to Frelimo (Front for the Liberation of Mozambique).

Campaign

“They (MNR) are a powerful military force but have never had, nor worried about having, a solid political structure,” says Xavier de Figueiredo an expert on former Portuguese Africa and editor of the Luobo weekly Africa Confidencial.

MNR has in recent months launched a diplomatic and press campaign to counter allegations that it has no serious political programme and no internal backing.

The campaign includes increasing invitations to Western journalists to visit rebel-controlled areas of Mozambique and has been mainly concentrated from Luobo, the MNR’s traditional information outlet to the world.

Reports from Maputo by Mozambican officials and from foreign journalists reporting from government-held areas paint a picture of indiscriminate violence by MNR guerillas.

They cite attacks on mission stations, schools and churches, looting, kidnapping and alleged atrocities international rebel organisations blame the war being waged by the MNR for making Mozambique “a stable base for disrupting a largely agrarian, state-based economy and threatening nearly a third of the 15 million population with starvation.”

But journalists who have visited areas held by the rebels in the north and centre of Mozambique tell a different story.

“They are well-trained, well-disciplined and have great support,” said one Western journalist who recently visited MNR bases in a largely rebel-controlled northern province.

The MNR campaign coincides with a series of military successes in which the group claimed to have overrun and to now control much of the northern provinces and areas of the centre and south.

Figueiredo said signs of MNR’s growing military power could help to tip world opinion in their favour.

Multi-party

An MNR “political action programme” dated January 12, 1987 described its guerrilla war as a national liberation struggle aiming at the eradication of a Marxist-Leninist dictatorship.

The document said MNR aimed to give Mozambique a multi-party system and a democratically elected government, and backed private enterprise and a market economy.

MNR’s political organization consists of a national council headed by the group’s 30-year-old president, Afonso Dhlakama, and with “secretaries” for areas like foreign affairs, internal administration and education. Visiting journalists say political classes are held in rebel-controlled zones.

“Ideologically, Dhlakama is a primary and communist,” a Western journalist who has met the MNR leader said.

But many Western observers maintain serious reservations about MNR’s identity, its backers and its objectives.

In addition to refusing to recognize Renamo, the United States and Western Europe have increasingly wooed the Maputo government, which they see as a moderating influence in southern Africa in contrast to Angola’s more hard line pro-Soviet rulers.

MNR’s image is tainted by its shadowy past. Western diplomat say it was formed in the 1970s by the security forces of then white-ruled Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe) to try to stop Frelimo creating an independent Marxist state.

They say it received support from former Portuguese rebels and that in 1980 was allegedly taken under the wing of South Africa’s security forces as a weapon against Frelimo.

MNR insists these links no longer exist and says the group was created by former Frelimo fighters opposed to Marxism.

According to MNR, the South African support ended when Pretoria signed a 1984 non-aggression treaty with Maputo.

Maputo alleges MNR still receive active support from South Africa — says Renamo.
ZAMBEZIA, Mozambique — Twenty-nine-year-old General Calisto Meque’s story typifies that of the right-wing Mozambican National Resistance, insurgent leader and their goals. Formerly a primary school teacher from Central Manica province, Gen Calisto fought with the now ruling communist Frelimo Party in the war of independence. But in 1977, disillusioned, he deserted.

“I didn’t like the communist system I saw people suffering as they suffered now, and I didn’t like it. So I deserted and joined Renamo,” he explained, sitting in his bamboo hut command post complete with glass windows, print curtains, and an old Portuguese map of Mozambique on one wall.

At 23, Gen Calisto led a group of 400 guerrillas to open up the rebel front in Eastern Tete province. “It was difficult, but we managed. Militarily it was a big success — we expelled large numbers of the enemy,” he recalled. That was in 1981.

In 1982, Gen Calisto was sent to open up a new front here in Zambezia, one of the country’s most populated and fertile provinces.

Isolated

“I had 580 men under my command. It was another military victory. We also had a lot of support from the people and many government soldiers deserted to join us,” he said.

It took the rebels four years to “conquer” this centre-northern bottleneck province that stretches from the Malawi border to the Indian Ocean, cutting the nation in half, he said but acknowledged they had taken no major towns.

Renamo was currently some 25,000 rebels operating in all ten provinces of this mineral-rich southeast African nation, and they claim to have isolated government forces to

district and provincial capitals.

Since the war began some ten years ago, the marauding Maputo Government has called in roughly 12,000 Zimbabwean and 5,000 Tanzania troops to help keep principal transport routes open, and is increasingly relying on foreign aid to keep its economy afloat.

“Our military situation is presently favourable, in spite of the large numbers of foreign troops supporting the ruling party. Frelimo, said Renamo’s 34-year-old commander-in-chief and president, Afonso Dhlakama, a former seminary student.

“We control some 85 percent of the Mozambican territory. The army is concentrated in the cities, cut off from surrounding districts. The few districts under Frelimo’s control only exist because of Zimbabwe’s air force protection, the guerrilla leader said.

Many observers believe what is sustaining the war is the Zimbabwean Airforce and its British-trained ground troops stationed mainly across the Beira Corridor — an oil rail and road route that links landlocked Zimbabwe to the Indian Ocean.

“Frelimo’s morale is at rock bottom. Zimbabwe keeps that war going, not Maputo,” said one businessman who asked to remain unnamed.

Attacks

Renamo has concentrated its attacks on the Beira Corridor — Mozambique’s economic artery. “The Beira Corridor is an important economic target and so much as Renamo views it as a pretext to involve foreign troops in the war,” Dhlakama said.

Spawned by the Rhodesian intelligence organization and openly backed by South Africa until Pretoria signed a non-aggression pact with Maputo in 1984, the image Renamo has is one of a movement without nationalist credentials as one senior Washington diplomat recently said after a visit to Mozambique. The United States and Britain are not only ignoring Renamo — whom they don’t consider a legitimate alternative — they are increasingly economic and humanitarian help in the never-ending job of fixing motorcycles — the commanders’ only form of fast transport. Messages are handled through a network of hand-cranked radio transmitters hooked up to the rebel capital in Gorongosa, a former wild game reserve park south of the Zambezi River.

In contrast to their rag-tag appearance and make-do approach to daily life, military hierarchy and foot-stomping, saluting discipline is strictly adhered to within Renamo ranks, and Dhlakama affectionately called the old man “O Velho” in Portuguese by his men in their uncontested leader.

Beneath Dhlakama are ten generals — one for every province fol-
off the people's growing discontent with the government's Marxist policies. And in the Moumbala district of Zambézia at least, Renamo is very well-entrenched and enjoys strong grassroots support.

Life in their headquarters base is almost relaxed there are football games every Sunday, tailor shops and carpentry shops have been set up, and there is no lack of food. Orderlies take care of such daily chores as washing and ironing clothes, fetching water, and

Political comment in this issue by J. Latakoímo and A Klaaste Sub-editing, headlines, and posters by S Mathhaku. All of 61 Commando Road, Industria West, Johannesburg.

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Conscripts

Renamo officials deny government accusations that they conscript civilians. "That's absurd. The life of a guerrilla is too hard. Conscriptation would only lead to desertion -- as Frelimo should know," said one rebel commander. The insurgents' rank and file are made up of teenagers like 18-year-old officer Alves. Like many of his peers, Alves said he voluntarily joined the rebels to fight the communists.
Behind the Mozambican rebel lines

ZAMBÉZIA, Mozambique — Twenty-nine year-old General Calisto Meque’s story typifies that of the right-wing Mozambican National Resistance, insurgent leaders and their goals. Formerly a primary school teacher from Central Manica province, Gen Calisto fought with the now ruling communist Frelimo Party in the war of independence. But in 1977, disillusioned, he deserted.

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Attacks

Renamo has concentrated its attacks on the Beira Corridor — Mozambique’s economic artery — an important economic target and in such a way as Frelimo uses it as a pretext to involve foreign troops in the war,” Dhikakama said.

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Mozambican soldiers repair a bridge destroyed by the MNR rebels

Chores

Renamo argues it has a life of its own feeding helping in the never-ending job of fixing motorcycles — the commanders’ only form of transport. Messages are handled through a network of hand-cranked radio transmitters hooked up to the rebel capital in Gorongosa, a former wild game reserve park south of the Zambezi River.

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Beneath Dhikakama are ten generals — one for every province, fol-
M'bique millions face starvation

The Star's Africa News Service

MAFIUTO — Almost four million people in Mozambique are facing starvation and the number is rising while food production is falling to the lowest levels in the country's history.

This has been disclosed by the Mozambique Trade Ministry.

At the same time it has been reported the country has no money to pay for food imports and depends totally on overseas donations to feed the starving population.

There is already hunger in Mozambique's second largest city, Beira.

The latest report from the Mozambican Trade Ministry's food security department estimates 3.9 million people are going hungry.

Of these, 1.2 million have been displaced from their homes because of the war. Worst affected areas are the central provinces of Zambezia and Sofala with 847 000 and 781 000 people at risk respectively.

The northern province of Niassa is almost completely isolated and the only way of moving large quantities of food into the province is through Malawi, the report said.

At the same time, Mozambique's agricultural board, Agricom, says a mere 40,000 tons of grain (maize and rice) were marketed in Mozambique last year while more than 760,000 tons were needed.

Last year's production figures are said to be the lowest in the recorded history of Mozambique's agricultural marketing.

The main reason for the collapse in the marketing of grain is given as "the destabilising action against the country promoted through armed banditry."

The figures mean more than 90 percent of Mozambique's food requirements will have to come from external sources.

The Mozambique news agency Aam said, however, that Mozambique's financial situation is such that this year no commercial imports at all are planned.

This means Mozambique will have to rely entirely on international donations to cover the gap between internal production and food requirements.

Reports also disclosed that the country's sugar supplies were down to 30,000 tons of which 12,000 had been donated by Sweden. The country's requirements are 70,000 tons.

Aam also reported the rice crop in the green belt around Beira had failed due to lack of rain. About 75 percent of the crop is expected to be lost, with "serious implications" for the food supplies of Beira.
In Maputo they don’t carry cargo — they are home to hundreds of families. Driven from their villages by Renamo, they seek shelter in the stationary freight cars.

IN Maputo, the railway cars are neither cargo nor passengers. The tracks run monotonously on a rutted track. Sheltered under its chassis and in the freight cars, patched under gun abandoned cement aisles, hundreds of families attempt to recreate the villages they fled in terror months ago worn bare by hunger, disease and rapine.

Maputo is home for 8000 refugees, spread by Mozambique’s 10-year war against the Mozambique National Movement (Renamo).

Set up originally in 1978, one year after Frelimo won its war of independence, Renamo originally moved from its base in Mozambique to take control of the Mozambique Central railway system. Since then, the railway has become a principal battlefront for Renamo.

By WALT

HOME IS A RUST

SPECIAL REPORT FROM NORTH-WEST MOZAMBIQUE, WHERE WAR IS

We are not in war, we would be able to feed people. In Maputo there are still vegetables, while malnutrition is rife in the north.

“...this is not a war of extermination,” Maputo insists. If it were, they (Renamo) would be kidnapping people from their homes... They would not be blowing up bridges, because they would know that it is a bridge they will need... When South Africa stops using the bandits, they will kill.”

The lives of the people of Mozambique have come to rely on money. Millions of dollars worth of aid, clothing, and medicine have been sent by aid agencies. Mozambique has come to rely on money, aid, and foreign investment. The war has brought ruin to the country.

This is a war of extermination, Maputo insists. If it were, they (Renamo) would be kidnapping people from their homes... They would not be blowing up bridges, because they would know that it is a bridge they will need... When South Africa stops using the bandits, they will kill.”

The lives of the people of Mozambique have come to rely on money. Millions of dollars worth of aid, clothing, and medicine have been sent by aid agencies. Mozambique has come to rely on money, aid, and foreign investment. The war has brought ruin to the country.
A SQUATTER POPULATION LIVES OFF FOREIGN AID

Carsinnamon by the very name banditoids.

Dicing through a war-zone in Meesta Carlos' beat-up Colt

WHICH crooks, rich and poor, and Benera's current car is too big to drive across to a hilly countryside. To be safe from the rifle, the car has been reduced to a small truck, divided into two parts, the driver and the passenger. The driver is a young man, dressed in a European suit, and is the only one who speaks English. The passenger is a middle-aged woman, wearing a black dress and a white hat. She speaks in a soft voice, almost in a whisper.

The war has turned a million peasants into refugees...

UTY RAIL-CAR...

In the first stems, lines of women will along the dirt road from the river with the US cars behind them, filled with water. Last month, the US announced another $50 million (about $100 million) in relief aid to Mozambique.

Yet despite the aid, and despite the vigilant presence of Pemphere, the railway yard offers only a precarious sanctuary for the Mozambicans. In the past months, they have been forced to move from their homes to the rail yard, where they live in tents and huts.

There are no roads left to the port cities of Beira and Maputo, and the once crowded rail yard is now a wasteland of debris and rubble.

The multitudes: hundred of villager have lost their ears, noses and lips, killed off by banditoids.
We want American aid — Chissano

The Star's Africa News Service
Mozambique's President Mr Joaquin Chissano wants more American involvement in his country's economy.

He said in an interview with Voice of America broadcast on Saturday night that relations between his socialist government and the United States were good, confirming a shift from the strict Marxist policies followed until last year.

"Relations have improved since 1983 and there is a better understanding of our situation and our principles," he said.

"We would like to see more participation by the United States in development projects in Mozambique and in regional development programmes which could benefit Mozambique."

Mr Chissano, who succeeded Mr Samora Machel last November, said his country would continue to abide by the Nkomati Accord signed by his predecessor with South Africa which, he said, deterred direct South African attacks.

"Today we are being judged by our fulfilment of the agreement and South Africa is being judged by non-fulfilment of it," Mr Chissano said.

If the agreement did not exist Mozambique would have been blamed for the situation in southern Africa.

"One of the reasons why the American administration accepted us was because we signed a peaceful accord The British also believe we want peace.

"The day we say the agreement is irrelevant everybody will say Mozambique is guilty and they will forget about South Africa."

He repeated accusations that despite the agreement South Africa was still involved in actions against Mozambique but now had to resort to "indirect means" to attack his country.

South Africa has persistently denied involvement with rebels fighting the Frejsho government.

Mr Chissano acknowledged that an economic recovery programme being implemented with the approval of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank would increase the hardships faced by the population.

"People must understand that we have no way out. We have to take these measures if we want to come out of our misery," he said.

Prices have risen sharply since the beginning of the year and the national currency has been devalued.

Mr Chissano said the three-year programme would not mean a better life for the Mozambican people, but added "We will have stopped the decline."

"We will make promises once this programme has been fulfilled."

He reaffirmed his government's policies of fighting the Mozambique National Resistance (MNR) rebels until victory but added that this would not be achieved "without the political and economic component."

"We will win this war on four fronts — militarily, diplomatically, politically and economically," he said.
No cargoes reaching Maputo

Swazi levies on goods spark route boycott

VIRTUALLY no South African goods are entering Mozambique after Swaziland’s imposition of stringent trade levies late last week.

Road hauliers have boycotted the Maputo run after a Swazi crackdown on an SA exporters’ racket in the kingdom.

Mbabane customs is demanding refundable deposits of up to 40% on the value of Maputo-bound goods to stop exporters selling at higher prices in Swaziland.

The scam also avoids paying a 10% sales tax in Swaziland.

Says haulier Tony Sedgwick: “I’ve no intention of paying and exporters are very reluctant to lodge deposits of up to R60 000 on a load.”

The deposits are cutting deeply into the hauliers’ pockets — one company says it is losing R2 000 000 a week in revenue.

A ministerial note sent by the Department of Trade and Industries asking Swazi authorities to clarify the situation has not been answered. Swaziland’s action may violate the Customs Union Agreement, but Pretoria has no formal leverage to stop the kingdom imposing the deposits.

Apparently the only SA goods to reach Maputo this week was a consignment of potato seed. The haulier used the Komatiport route to avoid Swaziland, but the level of banditry in the area makes it a highly unpopular route.

And Sats’ daily Komatiport-Maputo rail service is not heavily used. Sats spokesman Frikkie Stevenson said: “The service is very low at the moment.”

Jap International Carriers MD Peter Webb said hauliers were reluctant to switch to rail. “Too much gets stolen on the line — especially foodstuffs.”

It costs R2 000-R3 000 to send a 25-ton truck from Johannesburg to Maputo.
Devastation and disaster tell sad Mozambican tale

MAGANJA DA COSTA, a pretty Portuguese-built district capital in Mozambique’s Zambézia province, is typical of a country emerging as Africa’s latest disaster story.

The thousands of war refugees are dressed in sacks or rags. They have virtually no food except the coconuts and fruit they can gather in the bush.

MNR landmines and ambushes are a constant danger to those venturing out of town to forage for food.

Hungry and half-naked, these people are probably more fortunate than Mozambicans in more remote, rebel-occupied villages whose fate is unknown.

The government and international aid agencies are aware of the town’s plight. It is accessible by air and sea and money, food and clothing are available to help the refugees.

Mozambique demonstrates how difficult it is to operate in a society where war, economic decay and bureaucratic mismanagement are so entrenched that the modern economy has almost ceased to exist.

The task of rebuilding Mozambique is daunting. Of the population of 14.6 million, about 3.8 million are thought to be at risk from hunger caused by war and drought and 250,000 of those have taken refuge in neighbouring countries.

Nearly half the population is under 15, and the UN puts the mortality rate of infants and young children at one in three.

"An expanded, co-ordinated programme of emergency assistance is urgently required," UN Secretary-General Javier Peres de Cuellar said in a special appeal for Mozambique at the end of February.

Since Mozambique’s Marxist government took over from the departing Portuguese colonists in 1975, it has suffered many disasters, including the exodus of skilled Portuguese workers, destabilization by Rhodesia and SA and a largely drought-induced famine.

People go without necessities

Manganja lies 100km north of the provincial capital, Quelimane, but is inaccessible by road because of landmines and sabotaged bridges.

The only means of transport is an old tractor and its trailer. It is used to distribute what food aid there is.

Shops and telephone are things of the past. Electricity is no more than a memory for the generator has run out of fuel.

Mozambique’s problems are not new, but they are becoming more serious. War, economic decay and bureaucratic mismanagement have almost destroyed the economy.

The clinic is desperately short of drugs and food to treat the severe malnutrition and diseases which decimate the population. It has no soap and no sheets.

Relief, in the form of more than 300,000 tons of maize on a ship, did approach Maganja recently, but the ship left after waiting four days with only a tenth of the cargo unloaded. Aid workers blamed inefficient local officials who blamed intractable transport problems.

Maganja is 55km from the sea and the sacks of maize have to be taken ashore in a small boat, towed 1km to a river by a borrowed tractor, ferried in canoes up the river and finally transferred to Maganja’s ageing vehicle for the final few kilometres into town.

Mozambique’s problems are not new, but they are becoming more serious. Already there have been isolated reports of starvation.

Such a disastrous situation requires a co-ordinated response from the Mozambican government, donor-nations and the more than 50 aid organizations working in the country, but co-operation is not always forthcoming.

The difficulties of distributing aid in Mozambique can hardly be overestimated. Information on population and nutrition is scarce, and it is hard for the inexperienced to judge the difference between an acute crisis and the permanent crisis which dogs Africa’s poor.

Even when there are local surpluses of food, it often fails to reach the needy because the farmers have no incentive to exchange their produce.

Food, of course, is not the only concern. With government’s vaccination programme, hampered by war and shortages, disease — including TB, measles, bilharzia, podo, malaria and unsettlement — is taking its toll on a population weakened by hunger.

The West could help dozens of technical experts into Mozambique and provide millions of dollars in aid and ease the crisis. But the departure of the experts would probably leave Mozambique with the same problems as before. This is a dilemma which preoccupies many people. — Financial Times
Maputo: Millions more facing hunger

The number of people facing starvation in Mozambique continues to increase while food production is decreasing to the lowest levels in the country’s history, it was disclosed here.

At the same time it was reported that the country has no money to pay for food imports and is now totally dependent on donations for the starving population.

There is already hunger in Mozambique’s second largest city, Beira.

The latest report from the Mozambican trade ministry’s food security department estimates that 3.9 million are facing hunger.

Increase

Of these, 1.2 million have been displaced from their homes because of the war.

The figures show a slight increase in the number of people at risk when compared with figures produced in September at a national meeting of Mozambique’s disasters control office.

The worst affected areas are the central provinces of Zambezia and Sofala with respectively 847,000 and 781,000 people at risk.

The northern province of Niassa is almost completely isolated from the rest of the country and the only way of moving large quantities of food into the province is through Malawi, the report said.

At the same time Mozambique’s agricultural board, Agricom, has drastically revised downwards its figures for the 1986 marketing campaign.

No more than 40,000 tons of grain (maize and rice) were marketed in Mozambique last year and the country needs more than 700,000 tons to feed its population.

The report says that last year’s production figures are “the lowest in the recorded history of agricultural marketing in Mozambique”.

The main reason for the collapse in the marketing of grain is given as “the destabilising action against the country promoted through armed banditry”.

The 1986 figures mean that more than 90 per cent of its food requirement will have to come from external sources.

The Mozambique news agency, Aim, said, however, that “Mozambique’s financial situation is such that this year no commercial imports are planned.”

This means that Mozambique will have to rely entirely in the international donor community to cover the gap between internal production and food requirements.
Trained by SA, says MNR officer

The Star's Africa
News Service

MAPUTO — A Mozambique National Resistance Movement officer has claimed he was trained in rebel-controlled areas in central Mozambique by South African army officers, the Mozambican weekly Tempo has reported.

The SADF has consistently denied giving any aid to the MNR.

The officer was identified as Mr Armando Beira, former head of MNR military intelligence in the northern province of Cabo Delgado, who recently surrendered to the authorities.

He claimed he was forced to join the MNR in 1981 and was taken to the MNR's main base in Gorongosa district.

There, he said, he was given a month's course in military intelligence by South Africans.

"They were all soldiers and a colonel was giving the orders," he said.
Mozambicans face food shortage

The Star's Africa News Service

MAPUTO — A serious drought has hit the central Mozambican province of Sofala, where more than half the population is facing food shortages.

A spokesman for the meteorological office in Beira said rainfall in February was only a quarter of that normally recorded.

It was estimated that 600,000 people — more than half Sofala's total population — were facing hunger.
MAPUTO. Mozambican armed forces have seized two districts held by rebels in the central Zambezia province and killed 300 insurgents in the past three months there, the official news agency Aim reported yesterday. It said security forces recaptured Mopeia district and the main sugar-growing centre of Luabo on March 7 and "liberated" 20,000 peasants from the Mozambican National Resistance (MNR) guerrillas.

Frelimo reclaims district
Crippled, stateless and homeless, this family lost in war.

FLEEING FAMILIES FIND HOPE

Libydale means a home for Mozambique refugees,
WHEN Mozambique was colonized by the South African government in the East Rand more than a year ago and broke his spine, he lost more than the use of all four limbs.

After seven months recovering in hospital, he went home to Mozambique to find the village in which his family lived had been wiped out in a bloody confrontation between Mozambique National Resistance and Frelimo forces.

Mr Ubai, now disabled and destitute, is at a refugee camp in Gazankulu in the North-eastern Transvaal where he spends the time sitting in his wheelchair wondering what could have happened to his mother, brother and two sisters.

Mr Ubai had been working in South Africa for six years when, in June 1985, he slipped and fell from a building he was working on in Kablehong on the East Rand. He hit the ground head first and broke his spine in the region of the neck.

"I can't tell you what happened," he said this week. "When I woke up in hospital, my hands and legs could not do anything. I was completely useless. Nurses had to wash me and feed me. And, all this time, my employer never came to see me."

In February last year he was discharged from Natalspruit Hospital but he had nowhere to go and had to have someone to look after him.

Social workers at Natalspruit Hospital took him to Germiston station and put him on a train bound for Maputo - alone and in his wheelchair. He ended up at Maputo Central Hospital.

"The social workers at Maputo Central Hospital asked the soldiers to trace my relatives at Gumale District so they could fetch me. The soldiers came back to say our village was no more. It had been burnt down during the fighting between the MNR and Frelimo. They didn't know what had happened to my family."

Mr Ubai said hospital officials in Maputo then sent him back to South Africa because, they said, he had been working and living there for a long time. He was given a letter explaining his predicament and requesting that he be allowed to proceed to South Africa.

He claims that the letter was torn up by the South African Police at the Komatspoort border post. Nevertheless, they issued him with a train ticket to Germiston.

"The social workers at Natalspruit Hospital were not happy when they saw me," he said.

They put him on a train to Gazankulu where, they said, most refugees from Mozambique were housed and where he was likely to trace his relatives.

He ended up at a place called Mkhulu where a local induna contacted welfare workers who took him to Tlokwane Hospital in Acornhoek. He was then taken to the refugee camp in Lillydale.

"I've been here since October last year but I've had no clue about the whereabouts of my family."
Mozambique was once a tourist paradise. Today it’s hard to get a glass of water, shops are almost empty, buses are bullet-riddled, disease is rife — and the currency is almost worthless...

Where mere survival is an ordeal

On his way to the Mozambican capital of Maputo today, a visitor finds a country where life makes water scarcer than in the past, and food prices rise rapidly in a nation of food surpluses. In the past two years, food prices have risen by more than 100%, transportation costs have doubled, and rents have quadrupled.

At night across the Maputo bay red flares lit up the skies for several nights during the five-day stay. The fighting was not more than 40km away.

Michael Overmeyer reports from Maputo

There are no taxis. Bullet-ridden buses that have ventured outside a more than 35km radius from the city centre don’t go back into the areas.

A shortage of food and fuel has made it impossible for Mozambicans to import spare parts. This has caused the deterioration of the country’s roads. It is common to see “Skorkoros” (run-down cars) owned by alleles’ owners’ homes in the hope that better days lie ahead.

Despite the problems of living in the capital, it continues to attract refugees from the war-torn rural areas. More than 25,000 people have been displaced by the war against armed bands of the MNR and the South African army.

Rebels are an important part of the problem for Prime Minister Joachim Chissano.

Economically, Maputo has been hard hit by the war, especially as far as supplies are concerned.

There is nothing picturesque or romantic about doing your shopping in Maputo because shops are so poorly stocked.

In some cases shopping has become a full-time job, needing careful planning and the persistence of a determined shopper.

A journalist who accompanied me vanished one afternoon because he had been told about a rummage sale of clothes.

“IT is an opportunity I cannot miss,” he said leaving his job to hunt for bargains. A pair of shoes can cost up to 25,000 meticais (about R500) and a pair of trousers 30,000 meticais (about R700), he said.
Mozambique was once a tourist paradise. Today it’s hard to get a glass of water, shops are almost empty, buses are bullet-riddled, disease is rife — and the currency is almost worthless.

Where mere survival is an ordeal

LIFE in the Mozambican capital of Maputo today is pure and simply an ordeal

For the past two years its number of inhabitants has swollen causing an acute lack of water, food and housing.

Residents have just been told, at a point in the rainy season when drought makes water even scarcer than in the torrid heat conditions, that the country’s food supplies will fall far short of national needs.

Maputo’s drinking water supply has been emptying at an alarming rate over the last few years and at times reached dangerously low levels.

And when it rains in abundance the city suffers from the hazards of cyclones, like Damona.

The Marxist nation has not yet recovered from Damona, which left thousands of people homeless.

The water shortage is not the only problem that the growing population of the capital city faces.

Since independence in June 1975, a vast area of tin-and-iron shacks have sprung up around the city.

The shack area is infected with disease caused by a lack of basic human amenities.

Public transport, if any, is almost non-existent, except to areas close to the city centre.

City dwellers spend hours waiting for buses to ferry them to areas surrounding the city centre.

There are no taxis.

Bullet-ridden buses that have ventured outside a more-than-50km radius from the city centre don’t go back unto those areas.

A shortage of foreign currency makes it impossible for Mozambique to import spare parts.

This has caused the deterioration of the country’s cars. It is common to see “Skorororo” (rundown cars) outside owners’ homes in the hope that better days are ahead.

Despite the problems of living in the capital, it continues to attract refugees from the war-stricken rural areas.

More than 22,000 people have been displaced by the war against armed bands of the MNR in Maputo province.

Another 240,000 people in Maputu province have been affected by the anti-rebel war.

Throughout the country nearly 4 million people have been displaced or affected by the rural bush conflict.

At night across the Maputo bay red flares lit up the skies for several nights during my five-day stay. The fighting was not more than 40km away.

Rebels are only part of the problem for Prime Minister JOACHIM CHISSANO

Bearing in mind that the capital of Maputo city unscathed, except that it suffers the effects of the war.

Zimbabwean soldiers guarding their country’s vital link to the sea port of Beira.

‘Even the rand is king here’

TO SURVIVE in Mozambique today the population has to rely on shrewdness, ingenuity or pure luck.

There are, however, two distinct groups that stand out against this general hardship — foreigners and the tiny minority of Mozambicans who possess US dollars or South African rand.

For them Mozambique has become one of the cheapest countries in the world because of the plummeting value of the metical.

The currency was devalued about five times in line with World Bank and IMF prescriptions for an injection of foreign aid.

The official exchange rate to the US dollar was reduced from 40 to 200 meticais, but that did not affect the black market where the US dollar continued to fetch up to 1,500 meticais — South Korean won.

Economically, Maputo has been hardest hit by the war, especially as far as supplies are concerned.

There is nothing picturesque or romantic about doing your shopping in Maputo because shops are so poorly stocked.

In some cases shopping has become a full-time job, needing careful planning and the persistence of a commando operation.

A journalist who was accompanying me vanished one afternoon because he had been told about a rummage sale of clothes.

“It is an opportunity I cannot miss,” he said, leaving his job to hunt for some bargains. A pair of shoes can cost up to 5,000 meticais (about $300) and a pair of trousers 30,000 meticais (about $130), he said.

At night across the Maputo bay red flares lit up the skies for several nights during my five-day stay. The fighting was not more than 40km away.

Tass military and economic war has been gradually strangling the country and causing its inhabitants increasing hardship.

Relentless fighting against Rhodesia in the struggle for Zimbabwe and since then has been mushrooming of too many “spontaneous settlements.”

For the past 20 years Mozambique has been at war.

Freiimso fought Portuguese colonialism until independence in 1975, then supported the battle against Rhodesia in the struggle for Zimbabwe.

Bera said it was not possible to drive from Bera to Maputo but that the road to the northern provincial town of Tete on the Zambezi River was somewhat safer.

The Beira Corridor linking Zimbabwe with the Cape is safe because of the strong contingent of Zimbabwean soldiers guarding it.

The Lebua Corridor linking Zimbabwe with the Cape is safe because of the strong contingent of Zimbabwean soldiers guarding it.
Most British and 98 per cent to Mozambique

By Philip D. Harding

A drop in the ocean of African problems, yet one which is being actively discussed in the political and diplomatic circles of the world. Mozambique is a country of vast lands and resources, but its development has been held back by political and economic factors.

In the past, Mozambique has been governed by a number of different regimes, each with its own policies and priorities. The recent move towards democracy has brought with it a new sense of hope and optimism for the country's future.

Mozambique is rich in natural resources, particularly in timber and coal. However, the country has a history of conflict, which has limited its ability to develop its economy.

The government of Mozambique is working towards a more stable and prosperous future for the country. With the support of the international community, they are making progress in areas such as education, health, and infrastructure.

In addition to these efforts, Mozambique is also working towards improving its relationship with other countries in the region. This includes developing trade agreements and collaborative efforts in areas such as agriculture and tourism.

Overall, the future of Mozambique is promising, but there is still much work to be done. With continued support from the international community, the country can achieve a brighter future for its people.
Priests and nun freed by MNR

The Star's Africa News Service

MAPUTO — Three Italian priests and three Portuguese citizens, one of them a nun, have returned to Maputo after being freed on the Malawian border by the Mozambique National Resistance.

The Italians are fathers Onorino Venturini, Ezio Toller and Vitorino Biasioli and the nun Maria da Silva. The two Portuguese are Mrs Clarina Rodrigues and her 13-year-old daughter Alexandra.

The priests were kidnapped from Muxalina in the Zambereja coastal district of Pebane in December.

Father Venturini confirmed that during his captivity he met a journalist from the British newspaper The Independent but denied accusing the Mozambican government of using forced labour on communal farms, the Mozambique news agency, AIM, said.

Father Venturini was quoted in The Independent as saying the Mozambican people supported the MNR because they wanted change.

"It's all their interpretation. They write what they like," he said.
R420-m aid for Mozambique

Argus Africa News Service

MAPUTO — Countries and organisations have pledged R420-million in aid to Mozambique at a conference held in Geneva under the auspices of the United Nations, said the Mozambique News Agency.

It added, however, that the country needed R508-million to cover all its emergency needs.

The Prime Minister of Mozambique, Mr Mario Machungo, and the Minister of Co-operation, Mr Jacinto Veloso, were in Geneva for the conference.

Also present were representatives of about 70 countries and 20 non-governmental organisations.

The sum of money announced covers food aid, logistics, medicines and agricultural inputs.

The International Committee of the Red Cross has meanwhile made R3,3-million available to the Mozambican Red Cross to finance relief aid programmes for the victims of war and the severe drought.

And the World Lutheran Federation is to give Mozambique more than R4-million in aid in response to the UN appeal for urgent help.

The grant was announced at the Geneva conference.

An estimated 3,9 million Mozambicans are facing starvation in Mozambique, but the total number of people in need of aid could be as high as 4,3 million.
Cubans ‘now fighting in Mozambique’

The Argus Correspondent

LONDON. — A Mozambique National Resistance Movement (Renamo) commander has claimed Cuban soldiers are fighting in Mozambique.

The unidentified officer made the claim in a news report shown on commercial television here last night. The report was filmed in a Renamo camp.

Michael Nicholson of Independent Television News, who visited the camp in Zambezia province, said the war in Mozambique had become multinational.

Pointing to a Renamo officer, he said: “This commander recently killed Cubans.” He asked the man: “You say you are fighting Cubans in Mozambique?”

The officer replied: “Yes, they are here in Mozambique — Cubans, Tanzanians and Zimbabwean soldiers.”

He said he had seen Cubans fighting in the country.

Nicholson said the camp was training 1,000 recruits. The film showed the Renamo soldiers on parade.

Captured fuel

He said Renamo claimed to control more than 80 percent of the country.

“Renamo commanders travel from one base to another across provinces on captured motorbikes with captured fuel, often within earshot of their enemies.”

Pointing to Soviet and Chinese mortars, he said the most valuable booty was captured weapons.

The rebels had also recently captured anti-aircraft guns, which now gave them some protection against Zimbabwean air attacks.

Nicholson ended his report: “An expanding war and a small guerrilla army that has Mozambique by the throat is attempting to strangle Zimbabwe, Zambia, and possibly Malawi too.”

“It does not pretend it can win this war. But it claims it can prevent a Frelimo Marxist Government peace. It is doing exactly that.”
The Beira drought corridor

Drought has returned to the central Mozambican province of Sofala, the rice in the fields around Beira, the provincial capital and the country's second city, is stunted and yellow.

Raimundo Cosala, director of the Beira Green Zones office, fingers the withered rice sadly. "It's just like straw," he says.

He estimates that three-quarters of this year's Beira crop is lost. Instead of the planned 7,000 tonnes, less than 2,000 will be harvested. There are hungry families ahead for thousands of Beira families who depend on their small rice plots for subsistence.

Irregular rainfall has come on top of bitter fighting against the South African-backed Mozambique National Resistance (MNR) in the north of the province.

"The productive areas are racked by war," says a March report from the Sofala branch of the Disasters Control Office (DPCCN). "War obliges people to migrate from the zones where they were living and producing to areas not yet affected, where conditions for agriculture are not favourable," it says.

"In the north of our province, most of the people are living off wild fruits and roots," Manuel Nogueira, director of DPCCN-Sofala, said.

"The shortage of clothes is shocking. People are wearing bits of old sacking."

Of Mozambique's 10 provinces, eight are on the official danger list. According to the latest report from the Trade Ministry's food security department, 3.5 million people in the country are at risk — The Guardian.
Girl killed by landmine

A 14-YEAR-OLD Mozambican girl has been killed in a landmine explosion at Lomahasha on the border between Mozambique and Swaziland. SABC Radio News's correspondent in Mbabane reported yesterday that the girl died instantly when she stepped on the mine near the Lomahasha clinic. Villagers said the girl was sent by her mother to take powdered milk to relatives in Swaziland. Earlier this month, a man was killed at the same spot by a landmine.

Report by Staff Reporter Own Correspondent SABC Radio AP and UPI
The English army has begun its retreat from southern Africa. The English have lost about 500,000 men in combat during the war. The soldiers are currently in retreat, and the army is in poor shape.

In Mozambique, the civil war continues. The government and the rebels are still fighting, and the situation is very unstable. The economy is in ruins, and the people are struggling to survive.

Mozambicans face a massive refugee crisis. About 250,000 people have fled their homes, and more are coming every day. The United Nations has declared the situation a humanitarian crisis.

The English government has promised to send more aid to the region, but it is unclear how effective the efforts will be. The situation is complex, and the leaders of both sides are divided.

The war has taken its toll on the English army. The soldiers are exhausted, and morale is low. The government is struggling to find a solution to the conflict.

The Mozambican government has asked for international help, but the response has been slow. The United Nations has set up a refugee camp near the border, but it is not enough to meet the needs of the people.

The situation is bleak, and the future is uncertain. The English army is in retreat, and the Mozambican rebels are on the offensive. The war has cost thousands of lives, and the pain is felt by all.
Five die in another mine accident, toll rises to 46

JOHANNESBURG: Five people have died in a pressure burst at Anglo American's Vaal Reefs gold mine in the Western Transvaal.

An Anglo spokesman said today that two workers injured in last night's accident died overnight and the body of a miner originally reported missing had been retrieved.

Last night Anglo reported two miners were killed and 20 injured.

The accident brings to 46 the number of workers killed in accidents on mines in two weeks.

On Tuesday last week 16 miners were injured in a methane gas explosion at Sasol's Boespruit Colliery.

On Wednesday 34 miners died and 16 were injured at Gencor's Ermelo coal mine south-west of Johannesburg.

On Monday this week, seven workers were killed and three injured in a rockfall at JCI's Randfontein Estate's gold mine. — Sapa
Economic links with SA bad — Chissano

The Argus Foreign Service

PARIS — President Joaquim Chissano claimed here in an interview that Mozambique’s economic relations with South Africa were “worsening”.

But he added “Nevertheless we will continue to maintain our contacts with Pretoria”.

He told the Paris-based magazine Afrique Ase in an interview in Maputo that Mozambique’s relations with South Africa were “worsening, so far as our economic relations are concerned”.

He added “South Africa is applying sanctions against our country by using Maputo harbour less and less. At one time South African freight was being handled at a rate of seven million tons annually but this has slumped to under one million, a spectacular diminution which is having serious repercussions on our economy”.

“A pretext”

“The South African government claims it is not using Maputo so much because the rail link there is not working properly, but we consider that this is just a pretext”.

“Moreover the number of Mozambican workers in South Africa has fallen from 60,000 last year to 30,000”.

He said that despite strains on the Nkomati Accord, “we will nevertheless continue to maintain our contacts with the South African government in an attempt to try to make it respect its commitments.”
LONDON — Lonrho has applied to the European Investment Bank for a $3.8m loan for the rehabilitation of a cotton ginnery and vegetable processing plant on its estates in Mozambique's Gaza region.

And in Geneva, Mozambique Prime Minister Marcio Machungo has told a donors' meeting the country still needs $15m in emergency aid to save 4.5 million people from starvation.

Lonmco, Lonrho's Mozambique subsidiary, has applied for the loan through the Central Bank of Mozambique.

The vegetable processing plant will produce tomato puree for export and general vegetable products for Maputo.

Chairman Sir Edward du Cann says Lonrho produces a third of all vegetables sold in Maputo.

Following an appeal from UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, donor nations have pledged $63m in emergency aid to Mozambique.

In addition, Britain and West Germany this week announced aid packages amounting to $18.3m, while a $20m pledge from Italy is expected to be announced shortly.

The EC has announced it will increase shipments of cereals from 60,000 tons to 105,000 tons, while the US has added 44,000 tons to its previous commitment of 150,000 tons.

The plight of Mozambique's war-ravaged economy can be gauged from an appeal from its Trade Ministry for supplementary foodstuffs.

The ministry said the country's sugar stocks had been completely depleted. In 1986, Mozambique was an exporter of sugar with an annual production of 115,000 tons. For 1987, expected production is only 18,000 tons.

The ministry says the minimum quantity of sugar necessary is 70,000 tons.

The same applies to the production of vegetable oil, which has fallen from 19,000 tons in 1981 to 6,000 tons. The minimum supply needed is 15,000 tons.
WAR-TORN BEIRAT

WAIT FOR A BOOM

Walt Whitman
Machel died six months ago

THE late Samora Machel.

MAPUTO — Top level government leaders took part in a wreath laying ceremony at the weekend, marking the passage of six months since the death of President Samora Machel of Mozambique.

The chairman of the country’s national assembly, Mr Marcelino dos Santos, led the ceremony which took place at Maputo’s heroes monument where President Machel is buried.

Machel and 33 other people were killed on October 19 last year when the plane in which they were returning from Zambia crashed inside South African territory.

A commission of inquiry, which included American and British experts, ended its probe earlier this year in Johannesburg, but its findings have not yet been disclosed.
Angola ready for major offensive, says Unita

LISBON — Angola's Unita rebels said yesterday that Angolan Government troops, backed by Cuban and Soviet advisers, were ready to launch a big push on rebel strongholds in the south-east of the country.

"Government forces supported by Cubans and Russians are massing in Cuando Cubango province to start their dry season offensive against our bases in Jamba and Mavinga," Unita said in a communiqué.

The rebels' Lisbon spokesman, Mr Alcides Sakala, said defensive positions were being prepared north of the rebel headquarters at Jamba and that guerrilla units had launched a counter-offensive.

"We cannot yet give any details about our actions, but the government push, which we expect within days, will fail like all the others," Mr Sakala said.

He said government troops, supported by MiG fighters, artillery and armoured vehicles, were massed around the towns of Menenge and Cuito Cuanavale 400 km from Jamba, which is just north of the Namibian border.

There was no immediate comment from Luanda although analysts noted that Angola's Marxist Government, backed by about 30 000 Cuban troops, had previously launched anti-rebel offensives around this time of year.

Dr Savimbi, Unita's veteran leader, would also use the news conference to detail the rebels' response to the proposed re-opening of the Benguela railway, Mr Sakala said.

Zambia's President Kaunda said last week that the vital railway linking land-locked Zambia and Zaire with the Angolan port of Benguela would be fully operational within two years.

The line, a favourite rebel target, has been closed for over a decade and Unita has said it will allow it to be re-opened under certain conditions, which included direct talks with Luanda.

Frelimo set to attack rebel base

MAPUTO — The Mozambican Army is preparing an assault against the Mozambique National Resistance (MNR) movement's main base in the northern province of Zambezia, the Mozambique News Agency, AIM, has said.

In a report from Quelimane, in Zambezia province, the agency said Alfazema base was located in Morrumbala district and was regarded as the MNR's centre of operations for the provinces of Zambezia and Tete.

AIM said that following a successful military offensive by the government, the districts of Morrumbala and Mialange, near the border of Malawi, were the only ones in Zambezia province where MNR activity was "still intense."

Recently, Mozambican Army units, supported by Tanzanian and Zimbabwean troops, recaptured several districts and towns in Zambezia which had been captured by the MNR last year.

AIM said the recent successes were due to the reorganisation of the army.

"Logistics, which have always been one of the Mozambican army's worst problems, have improved substantially," the agency said.

"Soldiers in the furthest corners of the province now receive regular supplies and are well-armed," it added.
Bid to save 4½-m from famine death

WASHINGTON — A major international relief effort is under way in Mozambique to prevent a famine which could kill 4.5-million people, according to the US Government and private experts.

The United States and other countries have agreed to give Mozambique about R420-million in emergency aid. They are concerned that failure to act could produce a famine like that in Ethiopia during 1984 and 85.

Mr John Hammock, director of Oxfam America, said "If you catch it now, you're hopefully catching it ahead of time.

Mr Hammock, who has visited Mozambique, attributed the problem partly to drought but mostly to the MNR rebels who have pursued "a strategy of trying to terrrroise people rather than trying to win them over."

Describing the situation as deteriorating, he said one refugee camp he visited had a population of 3,000 in December and 8,000 a few weeks ago.

He said about 1.6-million people had been displaced by the war and that rebels had destroyed 40 percent of the country's schools.

The Mozambican Prime Minister, Mr Mario Machungo, has said the rebels have destroyed 464 health clinics — 25 percent of the total. He called the situation "extremely severe." The US Agency for International Development estimates that the lives of 4.5-million Mozambicans out of a population of 14.2-million are endangered.

Ms Julia Taft, director of the US Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance, agreed that the insurgency was causing more suffering than the drought.

Some supplies may have to be airlifted because the presence of rebels has made many roads unsafe.

Child deaths

She said donor countries were cooperating with 27 foreign, private voluntary organisations in Mozambique.

The United Nations Children's Fund said this year the rebellion had caused social and economic disruption in nearly all Mozambique's 10 provinces.

The report said "The combined infant and child mortality rate is believed to be in the range of 325 to 375 per thousand, making it one of the highest in the world."

Last month the Population Crisis Committee, a private research group, said that based on infant mortality and other criteria, Mozambique was the scene of more human suffering than any other nation.

Pledges worth R420-million in aid were made at a United Nations conference in Geneva on March 31 — Sapa-AP.
4m Mozambicans face severe food shortage

NAIROBI — The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) says four million Mozambicans are facing grave food shortages because of civil war.

And supplies may have to be flown or parachuted in "to avoid further suffering and loss of life".

An FAO report on the food supply situation and crop prospects in sub-Saharan Africa said 40 of the 45 developing countries in the region will need 32 million tons of food this year.

Mozambique, Angola, Botswana, Ethiopia and Lesotho face what the FAO calls "exceptional food emergencies".

The report, released today in Nairobi, said Mozambique clearly has the worst problems.

An FAO assessment mission found the Mozambique civil war reduced plantings, causing a massive shortfall in the anticipated harvest.

The experts said Mozambique will need 650,000 to 750,000 tons of emergency food and during the next 12 months.

The FAO does not say how many people have died of starvation there.

Mozambique's Marxist Government has been fighting an insurrection by the South African-supported Mozambican National Resistance since Mozambique gained its independence from Portugal in 1975.

The MNR rebels have focussed their attacks on roads, bridges and power stations, but the fighting has disrupted the country's agricultural production and impeded the deliveries of relief supplies.

Inefficient rains, dilapidated transport systems, poor roads and a lack of fuel and spare parts also have contributed to the problem.

Angola also faces a guerrilla war as well as a shortage of fertilisers and other agriculture needs.
M'bique rail line blown up

LISBON - The Mozambican right-wing rebel group, Renamo, claimed last night it had blown up the Beira railway and an oil pipeline and killed 70 Government troops in a fresh offensive.

It also claimed to have killed nine Zimbabwean troops and 15 Tanzanians and to have launched new offensives in Gaza and Inhambane provinces.

Seven Renamo guerrillas were killed and 37 injured.

A statement said guerrillas blew up the oil pipeline from Beira to Zimbabwe on April 18 at Mucodezi. Next day the railway link to Zimbabwe was sabotaged near Chokwe in Gaza province.
Malawian troops guard Mozambique railway link

MAPUTO — Mozambique

President Joaquim Chissano has confirmed the presence of Malawian troops in his country, a development which further broadens the international dimensions of his government's 11-year war with the MNR.

More than 6,000 Zimbabwean soldiers from the TANZANIAN and hundreds of Eastern Bloc advisers are already helping to fight the rebels. From next month Britain will step up its military training programme for Mozambican officers at a camp in eastern Zimbabwe.

In an interview ahead of his visit to Britain on May 6, Mr Chissano said the Malawians were helping to protect workers repairing the railway line from Malawi to the deep-water port of Nacala. The port has been cut off by the war, but could in future handle most of Malawi's agricultural exports which normally go through South Africa.

Mozambican officials believe that MNR guerrillas are still infiltrating from Malawi but apparently without the connivance of the government. Mr Chissano also said he suspected that the South Africans were continuing to violate the Lomé Accord.

We are getting information now about overflights, about strange planes in different areas and there are people speaking about fresh supplies for the bands, he said.

President Chissano ruled out the possibility of a United Nations force to keep the peace in Mozambique and rejected talks for a ceasefire with the rebels.

— Financial Times
Mozambique famine may kill millions

Argus Africa News Service

MAPUTO. — Millions of Mozambicans facing starvation may be beyond the help of a huge international operation launched to save them.

International aid is being rallied after reports that the war in Mozambique threatens more than four-million people with famine in what could be the biggest disaster of its kind since the drought in Ethiopia.

Millions of rands of emergency food supplies have been promised but international relief organisations will face a difficult task in getting it from Mozambique's ports to the starving people in remote, war-torn areas of the country.

Mozambique's transport infrastructure has been virtually destroyed by the war between the Frente government and the Mozambique National Resistance (MNR) rebels. In much of the country, vehicles cannot move on the roads except in escorted convoys.

Heavy fighting

The worst famine threat is in areas where heavy fighting is still continuing between government troops, supported by Tanzanian and Zimbabwean army units, and the rebels.

Earlier this month various countries and organisations pledged R400-million in aid to Mozambique at a conference in Geneva under the auspices of the United Nations.

The International Red Cross has made a further R38-million available to the Mozambican Red Cross to finance relief aid programmes.

The Argus Foreign Service reports film of harrowing scenes in Mozambique were shown in Britain on BBC television this week — after a warning that viewers would find it disturbing.

Viewers saw old women dying, pot-bellied children and crippled people.

BBC Southern Africa correspondent Michael Buerk said Mozambique had the highest number of child deaths in the world — 80 000 a year.

He said more than 700 clinics and hospitals across the country had been destroyed.

325 000
begin fast of Ramadan

Staff Reporter
Struggle to get delivery permits

SUPPLIERS had told Checkers retail warehouse stores they could not get road transport permits for deliveries during the rail strike. The company's food director Paul Susan said yesterday. Susan said Nestle, Beacon and others had told him of their struggle to get permits to deliver goods to the Checkers warehouse stores Nestle and Beacon spokesmen yesterday denied applying for temporary permits. Susan said suppliers could be unwilling to speak out for fear of possible repercussions, and using one or two examples could cloud the issue.

The point was, as far as he understood it, from suppliers, that the local road transportation boards had not relaxed their rules during the rail strike.

Warning on Mozambican border crossings

THE constant border crossings of Mozambicans could no longer be tolerated, deputy Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning Ben Wilkins said yesterday. He said at the opening of the fourth session of the KaNgwane legislative assembly authorities would act against those abusing the leniency of the KaNgwane and SA governments.

It was estimated that 14 000 to 20 000 Mozambicans had entered KaNgwane illegally since September 1984. Only 8 070 temporary permits had been issued so far. Wilkins said it was accepted that short-term assurance must be provided for humanitarian reasons.

"We have clear evidence, however, that not only is there an influx of Mozambicans, but also a constant coming and going across the border which can no longer be tolerated." There was evidence, too, that many Mozambicans used KaNgwane merely as a springboard to the interior, particularly to the PWV area.

They were part of an illegal workforce, which deprived KaNgwane citizens of jobs in the PWV area, he said.
International aid may be too late for many Mozambicans

The Star's Africa News Service

MAPUTO — Many millions of starving Mozambicans may be beyond the help of a massive international operation.

International aid is being rallied in response to reports that the war in Mozambique threatens more than four million people with famine in what could be the biggest disaster of its kind since the drought in Ethiopia.

Emergency food supplies have been promised but international relief organisations will face a difficult job getting it from Mozambique's ports to the starving in remote, war-torn areas of the country.

Mozambique's transport infrastructure has been virtually destroyed by the war between the Frelimo government and Mozambique National Resistance (MNR) rebels.

In much of the country vehicles can only move in escorted convoys.

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The International Red Cross has made another R3.3 million available to the Mozambican Red Cross to finance relief.

The worst affected areas are the provinces of Zambezia and Sofala with respectively 847 000 and 781 000 people at risk. It is in these provinces that the MNR launched a successful military offensive late last year.

The Mozambican government admits rebels are still in control of some districts.

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Thousands of Mozambicans have fled to neighbouring countries in the past 18 months but many are being sent back and the authorities are struggling to find centres to accommodate and feed them.
By DE WET POTGIETER

THE lethal electrified fence on the border between South Africa and Mozambique has been extended.

A SA Defence Force spokesman said yesterday an extra 37km of electrified fence had been tested on May Day.

"All those living in the vicinity of the fence have been notified, including the Government of Mozambique and the people living on the Mozambican side," the spokesman said.

"The fence is clearly marked in all the languages of the area," he added.

The electrified fence was erected to prevent terrorists from infiltrating into South Africa from Mozambique.

According to the Defence Force spokesman, the fence also helps combat cross-border smuggling, stock-theft and the spread of stock diseases.
LONDON — The world's worst famine since the one in Ethiopia as threatening Mozambique, it is claimed here.

A BBC television report on the situation Wednesday night claimed that more than 4.5 million people were facing starvation and only urgent action could prevent another disaster.

Film, prefaced with a warning that viewers could find it disturbing, showed scenes of old women dying, pot-bellied children and crippled people.

BBC Southern Africa correspondent Michael Buirk, reporting on the situation at one aid centre there, told of a house, known in colonial times as "Villa Paradise", "Now it is a refuge for 10,000 desperate people — people at the last extremity of exhaustion, malnutrition, and disease," he said.

"Many can barely walk or even lift their heads. They have been hiding in mangrove swamps for months from the endless brutal war."

He said refugees had overwhelmed the aid centre and a once fertile province was destitute. In a potentially rich country, 4.5 million people risked

The agony of Mozambique seen on TV

starving to death

Help was coming — half a million tons of food from abroad — but most of the country had been made dangerous or totally inaccessible by the war.

Buirk said that Mozambique had the highest child mortality in the world, "96,000 children a year, one every six minutes."

He also said more than 700 clinics and hospitals had been destroyed. Those that remained were packed with "thousands of legless and armless cripples — victims of the casual cruelties of vicious men."

Britain's Minister for Overseas Development, Mr Christopher Patten, said that Britain had pledged £56 million in emergency aid to Mozambique this year, and hoped to offer more when President Chissano visited London next week —

The Star Bureau
Botswana rejects accord

The Star's Africa News Service

GABORONE — The Botswana Government has rejected a South African proposal for a joint security agreement on the lines of the Nkomati Accord with Mozambique, it has been reported here.

The Reporter newspaper said that a top level South African delegation led by the Director-General of Foreign Affairs, Mr Neil van Heerden, was in Botswana last week to discuss recent allegations that the African National Congress was infiltrating guerrillas into South Africa through Botswana.

The newspaper said South Africa had proposed an “Nkomati agreement” as a joint mechanism to monitor the movement of infiltrators inside Botswana.

The Botswana delegation to the talks had rejected the proposals.

Last month South Africa warned Botswana the ANC was using Botswana as a route to infiltrate South Africa.
Renamo base captured

JOHANNESBURG — Mozambican Armed Forces, backed by troops from Zimbabwe and Tanzania, have captured the main base of the anti-government Renamo movement, SABC radio news reports, quoting military sources in Maputo. The sources said the base at Morrumbala in central Mozambique fell to government forces last week. So far there has been no comment from Renamo spokesman in Lisbon.
The diplomats at the British Embassy on Vladimir Lenin Avenue in Maputo are rather pleased. On his first trip outside Africa as Mozambique’s new president, Mr. Joaquim Chissano is visiting Western, not Eastern Europe, and going to see the Iron Lady, Mrs. Margaret Thatcher, and the Queen.

It may be going too far to call his British tour, from tomorrow until Saturday, “a slap in the face for the Russians”, as one diplomat did, but it is certainly a sign of Mozambique’s increasing close military and economic ties with the West.

Although Mozambique is a Marxist-Leninist state, following independence from Portugal in 1975, its buildings are still plastered with old-fashioned revolutionary slogans, the ruling Frelimo party has moved steadily westwards over the past three years. First under the leadership of President Samora Machel, and now under President Chissano.

Failure

Members of the government like to play down the significance of recent ideological shifts, but many have been disillusioned by the poor performance of the state-controlled sector of the economy and the failure of the Soviet-equipped army to defeat the MNR rebels.

The guerrilla war has wrecked the economy and put a quarter of the population of 14 million at risk from starvation. During his visit Mr. Chissano will be seeking increased military aid from Britain for Mozambique’s ill-disciplined army. Since the beginning of last year, British officials have been training Mozambicans in eastern Zimbabwe and the number of pupils on the 12-week course is now being doubled to 120.

A private British defence company, with a quiet nod of approval and weapons export licences from the British Government, has won a contract in Mozambique and sent out half-a-dozen former members of the special air service regiment to train a Mozambique elite force which will guard the railway from Malawi to the northern port of Nacala.

The Mozambicans hope that improved counter-insurgency tactics will succeed where 800 Soviet advisers and an array of tanks and MiG aircraft better suited to conventional warfare have failed.

Rhetoric

When it comes to the rhetoric of global politics, the Mozambican leadership has one foot in the Soviet camp, but on the economic front it has begun embracing the West, welcoming foreign investors and the International Monetary Fund, privatising state companies and bringing state farms to the private sector.

Mr. Chissano’s explanation of this phenomenon is that state farms and “the people’s shops” were practical rather than ideological necessities. Portuguese owners had fled in panic at independence and the state was obliged to step in for want of Mozambican entrepreneurs.

People started thinking it was a policy not to allow the opening of private shops,” he said in an interview. “There was resistance (to privatisation) from some civil servants who said that people should not open shops because they would become exploiters, capitalists and so forth. We said no, this is wrong.”

So good are Mozambique’s relations with Britain that the Swedish president visited the State House last week. Mr. Chissano wants to associate more closely with it and expects his country to attend as a guest the next Commonwealth summit in Vancouver in October.

It is unlikely that Mozambique, a Portuguese-speaking country, would become a full member, although it is not a possibility which Mr. Chissano rejects out of hand.

Mozambique depends for its survival on emergency food aid and other forms of assistance, but cherishes its political independence. It has refused to allow the Soviet Union to set up military bases and will want to become no more beholden to the West than it is to the East.

Support

The US administration, hampered by right-wingers in Congress who want to support the MNR, see a chance to make a new strategic friend in Southern Africa, but Mozambique will doubtless continue to import much of its fuel and armaments from the Soviet Union and will stand by many of the socialist ideals which it developed in the early struggle against Portuguese colonialism.
Chissano gets the red carpet

LONDON. — Britain gave Mozambique's President Joaquim Chissano a red-carpet welcome yesterday at the start of a three-day visit during which he is expected to seek further aid to stop a famine sweeping the nation and a guerrilla war by South African-backed rebels.

Mr Chissano was clearly pleased with the welcome, he was given on arrival at Heathrow Airport, where officials said the Foreign Office provided a new red carpet for the occasion and a Royal Air Force honour guard.

Mr Chissano, 47, is on his first trip outside Africa since becoming president in November last year, following the death of President Samora Machel in an air crash in South Africa last October.

He is scheduled to meet the Prime Minister, Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Foreign Secretary, Mr Geoffrey Howe, the Queen and the Commonwealth Secretary General, Sir Shridath Ramphal.

"Geography and changes in Mozambique's (Marxist) policy mean Britain and the West have an interest in cementing their ties with Mr Chissano and in showing they can offer a better pattern of development than Frelimo's communist allies," the Daily Telegraph said in an editorial.

"The first priority is to provide famine relief in a country where it is estimated 4.5 million face starvation. The second is to bring an end to the war."

Diplomats said the high profile given his visit was mainly because Mozambique was moving away from orthodox Marxist central planning and because of its position as a frontline state sharing a common border with South Africa.

They said Britain wanted to get the message across that it wants to help Mozambique and other frontline nations to lessen their dependence on South African aid links.

In other areas of assistance, British officials said they expected food and emergency aid to total an estimated £36 million in the current financial year. Mozambique is also expected to seek British help in rescheduling part of its £9 billion foreign debt.

UPH
Frelimo wants British aid to fight the MNR

The Argus Foreign Service

LONDON — Mozambique would need substantial foreign military aid to defeat the MNR rebel forces, President Joaquim Chissano has admitted here.

Frelimo forces needed both material aid and training — assistance the Maputo government was actively seeking from the international community, including Britain.

The president told a press conference yesterday that he had asked Mrs Thatcher for more "logistical aid and training" and the British government was studying the request to "find ways to help."

Elite forced

In fact, the United Kingdom has this month doubled to 120 the number of Mozambique officers and NCOs being trained under British army officers in eastern Zimbabwe. And, through a private defence company contract, an elite Mozambique force is being trained by former SAS soldiers and equipped with new assault rifles and non-combat supplies.

The war against the rebels President Chissano insists are backed by South Africa is the country's most pressing problem. He believes foreign military aid is part of the answer.

Painting a gloomy picture of Mozambique's economy — which he blamed on the "colonial inheritance, South African destabilisation and natural calamities," President Chissano said, however, that talks with the IMF "are going well."

Shared desire

President Chissano also urged Britain to continue pressuring the South African government to open talks with the ANC in an effort to achieve a negotiated settlement.

The Frelimo leader said he shared with Mrs Thatcher a desire for "democracy, peace and equality" in Southern Africa.

President Chissano confirmed that a delegation of Mozambicans would attend the next Commonwealth summit in Vancouver, as observers, because they had a deep interest in a region occupied by a host of Commonwealth states.
M'bique unveils transport plans

LISBON — Mozambican officials have unveiled details of a $500 million plan to rebuild a rebel-held transport network to lessen the dependence of black-rulled southern African countries on trading through South Africa.

The eight-year project to recuperate the strategic oil pipeline, railroad and highway known as the Beira Corridor will free Malawi, Mozambique, Zambia and Zimbabwe of almost total reliance on importing and exporting through South African ports, officials said.

Project organizer, Mr Rui Fonseca, said west European countries would provide almost all of the $850 million required to modernize Mozambican ports, roads and railroads and build airports, goods terminals and telecommunications links.

Mr Fonseca said the immediate aim was to double goods traffic by the end of 1987 along the 400-kilometre corridor that links landlocked Zimbabwe to Mozambique's Indian Ocean port of Beira.

Rebels fighting to overthrow Mozambique's Marxist government regularly blow up stretches of the pipeline and ambush trains on the corridor.

Mozambique accuses Pretoria of supporting the guerrillas to undermine efforts by its black-rulled neighbors to operate independent trade routes.

The plan has been developed by the Mozambique-based transport commission of the Southern African Development Coordination Conference (SADCC), a group set up by nine black-rulled countries to lessen the region's economic dependence on South Africa.

Details of the Beira Corridor plan were released two weeks after Angola, Mozambique, Zambia and Zambian announced a $290 million project to rebuild Angola's Benguela Railroad that provides a similar outlet for southern African goods on the Atlantic Ocean.

The Beira Corridor, the easiest route to the sea from Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe, carried four million tons of goods at its peak in the 1960s.

Hit by Angolan rebel sabotage, poor maintenance and a lack of qualified technicians, the volume of traffic fell to 1.4 million tons in 1984 and 1985, according to official figures.

Zimbabwe, Tanzania and Malawi have sent in troops to help the Mozambique army protect the line from attack by guerrillas of the Mozambican National Resistance. But traffic has remained severely disrupted.

Since the crippling of the Beira Corridor, SADCC officials say Zimbabwe and Malawi channel 90 per cent and Zambia 30 per cent of their foreign trade through South African ports.

Completion in 1985 includes the integration of other transport links into the system, so that southern African countries can make full use of five Indian Ocean ports Beira, Lobito, Nacala and Maputo in Mozambique and Dar-Es-Salem, Tanzania — Sapa-AP.
Argus Africa News Service

MAPUTO — The Mozambican army has retaken the village of Morrumbala, in northern Zambezia province, from rebels of the Mozambique National Resistance movement. The village had been in MNR hands for more than a year.
LISBON — Mozambican officials have just unveiled a $500m plan to rebuild the rebel-hit Beira Corridor transport network to lessen the dependence of black states on trading through SA.

The eight-year project to rebuild the strategic oil pipeline, railway and road link will free Malawi, Mozambique, Zambia and Zimbabwe of almost total reliance on importing and exporting through SA ports, officials said.

Project organiser Rui Fonseca said West European countries would provide almost all of the $589m required to modernise Mozambican ports, roads and railways and build airports, goods terminals and telecommunication links.

Fonseca told a meeting in Lisbon the immediate aim was to double goods traffic by the end of 1987 along the 400km corridor that links Zimbabwe to Mozambique’s port of Beira.

Rebels fighting to overthrow Mozambique’s Marxist government regularly blow up stretches of the pipeline and ambush trains in the corridor. Mozambique accuses Pretoria of supporting the guerrillas to undermine efforts by its black-rulled neighbors to operate independent trade routes.

Western nations led by the European Community were expected to provide $518m of the total cost and had already donated $23m. The US so far has invested $5.6m, officials said.

The plan has been developed by the Mozambique-based transport commission of the Southern African Development Co-ordination Conference (SADCC), a group set up by nine black-rulled countries to lessen the region’s economic dependence on SA.

When the plan is completed, the ports of Beira, Lobito, Nacala and Maputo in Mozambique and Dar-es-Salem in Tanzania will be incorporated into the system.— AP-DJ.
Mozambique to get $152m in loans

LISBON — Mozambican Trade Minister Aranda da Silva said at the weekend his country would receive $152m in new loans between June and December as a result of successful negotiations last month between the government and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank.

He told a seminar in Lisbon that the upsurge in foreign financial support for Mozambique was the most foreign credit the Marxist-rulled nation had obtained since independence in 1975. Aranda da Silva said total agreement had been reached on the steps taken by the government to lift the economy out of deep recession brought on by drought, falls in world commodity prices and disruption caused by a war against anti-government rebels.

He said the $152m in new credits would come from the World Bank and Western countries such as Britain and Switzerland.

"Never in its 12 years of independence has our country disposed of such important financial support as that which is foreseen over the next few months," Aranda da Silva said.

Diplomatic sources here noted that Mozambique has significantly stepped up its ties with the West in recent years.

Aranda da Silva was addressing a seminar on the Beira transport corridor, a 300km rail, road and pipeline complex linking the port of Beira to landlocked Zimbabwe.

African states grouped in the Southern African Development Coordination Conference (SADCC) have launched a project valued at more than $550m aimed at upgrading Beira port and the railway to Zimbabwe under an overall strategy to reduce the continent's dependence on South Africa in the region — Sapa-Reuters
Mozambique 'No' to Margo report

JOHANNESBURG — The Mozambican Government has rejected the findings of the Margo Commission of Inquiry into the air crash in which President Samora Machel was killed in October last year, SABC's Africa Desk reports.

Mozambique said in a statement, quoted by the radio, that the Mozambican national commission of inquiry into the crash had studied and rejected the conclusions of the Margo commission.

The statement referred to the international board of inquiry set up after the crash, consisting of experts from Mozambique, the Soviet Union and South Africa.

It said that despite requests from Mozambique and the Soviet Union, South Africa had decided to continue with its own inquiry.

Mr Justice Margo announced on March 11 that, in terms of the Chicago Convention, copies of his report had been sent to Mozambique, where the plane was registered, and to the Soviet Union, as the aircraft manufacturer.

The two countries were allowed 60 days to comment on the report or to make representations to the commission.

Asked to comment, the Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr Pak Botha said the commission of inquiry had been drawn up in strict accordance with international conventions, and that the commission had been made up of internationally recognized authorities.

The report would be released in accordance with prescribed rules and it would be clear why the Mozambique Government was refusing to accept it.
Mozambique rejects SA's Machel air-crash verdict

Argus Africa News Service

MAPUTO. — Mozambique has rejected the findings of the South African board of inquiry into the causes of the aircraft crash in which President Samora Machel and 34 others were killed last year.

The political bureau of the ruling Frelimo Party said in a statement that investigations by Mozambique, South Africa and the Soviet Union on the causes of the crash should be continued.

The South African board's findings have not yet been published.

They were submitted to Mozambique and the Soviet Union which, according to international rules, had 60 days to make representations about them.

"UNACCEPTABLE"

The statement issued in Maputo said the findings were "unacceptable", but did not give details about them.

The political bureau wanted to find out the truth about the disaster and had therefore decided to "consider the investigation not closed".

The Mozambican commission rejected the South African findings because it was necessary to "continue the work of the tripartite commission with the basic aim of identifying the location and nature of the navigational radio beacon that caused the aircraft to swerve from its route."

The statement said it was not the signal from the Maputo navigational beacon that had been followed by the crew.

Meanwhile, the Argus Political Staff reports South Africa has rejected the Mozambican stand on the board's findings.

According to diplomatic sources, the Soviet Union is also expected to disagree with the findings, sticking to its claims that the aircraft was brought down by false beacon signals.

Foreign Affairs Minister Mr Pik Botha said in an interview today that South Africa could not be faulted.

"We followed the terms of the Chicago Convention precisely. A board of internationally respected experts under Mr Justice Margo was appointed to investigate the accident and the inquiry was held in the open."

The Chicago Convention required the country in which the accident occurred to hold the inquiry. Both the Soviet Union and Mozambique had been invited to take part.

Diplomatic sources said today Mozambique was looking for a way out because of pressure on it by the Soviet Union which stood to lose considerable aircraft sales because of the accident.
Maputo rejects Machel air crash report

E. Africa News Service

MAPUTO — Mozambique has rejected the findings of the South African commission of inquiry into the causes of the plane accident in which President Samora Machel and 34 other people were killed last year.

The Political Bureau of the ruling Frelimo party said in a statement that investigations by Mozambique, South Africa and the Soviet Union on the causes of the crash should be continued.

The South African commission of inquiry met earlier this year but its findings have not yet been published.

The findings were submitted to Mozambique and the Soviet Union which, according to international rules, had 60 days to make representations about them.

The two-month period expired yesterday.

The statement issued in Maputo said the findings were "unacceptable".

NOT CLOSED

The Political Bureau had approved the position taken by the Mozambican commission and had decided to "consider the investigation not closed."

The Mozambican commission of inquiry had rejected the South African findings because it said, it was necessary to "continue the work of the tripartite commission with the basic aim of identifying the location and nature of the navigational radio beacon (VOR) that caused the aircraft to swerve from its route."

The statement said it was not the signal from the Maputo navigational beacon (VOR) that had been followed by the crew.

"The signal from the navigational beacon followed by the aircraft had a decisive role in the tragedy," it added...
SA probe ‘unacceptable’

MAPUTO — Mozambique has rejected the findings of a South African inquiry into the plane crash in which Mozambican President Samora Machel died on October 19 last year.

A statement from the politburo of the ruling Frelimo party said the inquiry’s conclusions, which have not yet been published, were unacceptable. Machel and 34 other people died when his Soviet-built Tupolev aircraft crashed just inside South Africa’s border with Mozambique while on a flight from Zambia to Maputo.

An international commission of inquiry, comprising experts from Mozambique, the Soviet Union and South Africa, has analysed the aircraft’s flight recorders and conversation between the cockpit and Maputo airport control tower but not yet reported its findings.

Additionally, South African set up its own board of inquiry and held hearings in Johannesburg earlier this year chaired by a Supreme Court judge, Mr Justice Margo.

During the hearings, that inquiry heard repeated evidence that the Soviet crew did not follow standard procedures.

Yesterday’s politburo statement urged South Africa to consider the “aim of finding out the truth.”

It said the plane had homed in on a navigational signal that took it into a hillside inside South Africa instead of to Maputo airport and the reason for this had not been explained “There must be a complete clarification of this fundamental point to find out the truth,” it added.

The inquiry’s findings were sent to Mozambique in advance of their publication. Commenting on Maputo’s rejection of them, Foreign Minister Mr Pik Botha told South African state radio yesterday “When you see the report, you’ll see why they are rejecting it.”

The report of the commission of inquiry would be released later this week, SABC Radio News reported.

It was made available to the Mozambiquan government, as a country of registry, and the Soviet Union, as the manufacturer, about two months ago — Sapa

Experts sift through bomb rubble as SA denies role

HARARE — Bomb-disposal experts and forensic scientists sifted through the rubble yesterday in a Harare apartment where a woman was killed in an explosion on Monday night.

Zimbabwean Security Minister Mr Emmerson Mnangagwa, who visited the scene within minutes of the blast, blamed South Africa. A Pretoria government spokesman denied responsibility.

A young Zimbabwean woman, identified as Mrs Tatsi Chiliza, was killed instantly. Three others in the apartment, her brother, a baby girl and a domestic worker, escaped unhurt.

The area around the Earl’s Court apartment building, in the central Harare area, was sealed off till midday yesterday before photographers and television crews were allowed to film the shattered apartment.

The apartment had to be identified, said they understood Mrs Chiliza’s husband was of South African origin, but this could not be confirmed. Mr Mnangagwa said that only Zimbabweans were resident in the two-storey building.

The blast is the latest of a series in the frontline states for which Pretoria has either taken responsibility or been blamed.

Last week, SA issued a strong warning to Zimbabwe that it would take whatever action was necessary after a landmine explosion in the northern Transvaal. It said tracks from the scene of the explosion led across the border into Zimbabwe.

On April 25, five Zambians were killed in an attack by SA commandos on Livingston.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Pik Botha, said in a statement in Pretoria yesterday that Zimbabwe was obviously accusing SA of being responsible for the Harare blast to cover up the use of its territory by terrorists who plant landmines in SA.

Mr Botha also rejected accusations of SA involvement in a group of Zimbabwean rebels, following the discovery of SA-manufactured soap and shoes on a rebel who was killed by Zimbabwe’s armed forces in Matabeleland on Monday.

Reagan ‘unaware of tour’

WASHINGTON — President Reagan yesterday denied he had known of a secret White House tour in September 1986 for three Iranians who wanted to be sure they were dealing with presidential representatives.

In a TV interview on Monday, Major-General Richard Secord said three Iranians had been led by Lieutenant-Colonel Oliver North on a late-night tour of the White House.

The tour had been arranged because the mission of ex-national security adviser Mr Robert McFarlane to Iran in May 1986 failed to win freedom for US hostages.

President Reagan was away from the mansion that day but “was aware of it and was completely briefed on the results on the meeting,” Maj.-Gen Secord said — UPI
PRETORIA. — South Africa is to make available R3-million to upgrade Maputo harbour, the Department of Foreign Affairs said today.

This follows an agreement signed between South Africa and Mozambique on March 26.

The development was in line with South African efforts to promote the economic development of the region, the department said.

It followed the doubling of the railway line to Maputo, the creation of cold storage facilities at the harbour, the upgrading of facilities, export credit and agricultural development in Mozambique.

It was calculated that the harbour’s income would eventually increase from R23-million to R168-million a year.

The investment in the harbour could be profitable only if it was used fully by South Africa.

Feasibility study

“Exporters in the region, notably the Northern and Eastern Transvaal, will be encouraged to make full use of the facilities once they have been upgraded,” the department said.

The upgrading and development of the harbour would be in three phases, in accordance with a feasibility study by the private sector in collaboration with the Mozambican authorities.

The R3-million for the first phase would be for the supply of parts and equipment, maintenance and management.

Phase two, stretching over four years, would concentrate on the repair of infrastructure with the aim of increasing exports to about six million tons a year.

Phase three would aim at further and continued repair, upgrading and the provision of new facilities.

“The benefits to Mozambique are obvious. Not only will Mozambique receive a vastly increased income but a number of additional jobs will be created both within the harbour and on Mozambican railways.

“It is hoped that other countries will also show an interest in establishing a more peaceful and industrious climate in the region,” the department said.
THE Mozambican government has rejected the findings of the Margo commission of inquiry into the air crash which killed President Samora Machel last October.

Maputo said in a statement yesterday the national commission of inquiry into the crash had studied and rejected the Margo commission's conclusions.

The statement referred to the international board of inquiry set up after the crash, consisting of experts from Mozambique, the Soviet Union and SA.

It said that despite requests from Mozambique and the Soviet Union, SA had decided to continue with its own inquiry.

Mr Justice Margo said on March 11 that in terms of the Chicago Convention, copies of his report had been sent to Mozambique, where the plane was registered, and to the Soviet Union, as the manufacturer of the aircraft.

President Machel and 34 other people were killed in the crash on October 19 last year.

SABC news said the report of the commission of inquiry will be released, later this week. — Sapa.
HARARE — Anti-Government rebels abducted seven people from a mission farm near the central Mozambican town of Gondola on Wednesday night, a mission spokesman said today.

The seven were an American nurse, an Australian farm manager, an 18-month-old baby girl and four Zimbabweans, the mission director of Youth With A Mission, Mike Oman, told Reuters.

He said they were kidnapped late on Wednesday night when right-wing Mozambican National Resistance (MNR) guerrillas surrounded their house on the farm. They were taken away without shots being fired but a four-ton truck and a car were blown up and completely destroyed.

He said the abduction was witnessed by a Mozambican farm manager who had relayed the news to Harare by telephone.

Gondola lies about 100 kilometres east of the eastern Zimbabwean border town of Mutare, midway along a road, rail and fuel pipeline to Beira.

Mr. Oman named the seven as Kondra Bryan (American), Roy Perkins (Australian), his wife, Patricia, Phil and Vicky Cooper and their baby daughter, Abigail, and Joan Goodman (all Zimbabwean).

He said Mass Bryan, 63, from Houston, Texas, was the only one of the seven affiliated to Youth With A Mission. She was a nurse who had arrived in Gondola on Sunday to start a six-month-long voluntary assignment.

He said the others were running a clinic, self-help projects and distributing food, clothing and medicine on the farm about 15 kilometres from Gondola. They were attached to an aid body called Mission to Mozambique or groups associated with it.

He quoted the farm manager's eyewitness saying that an unknown number of MNR rebels surrounded the house after the seven had gone to bed. They roused the occupants by chanting and beating their rifle butts on the ground.

The guerrillas took everything they could carry from the house, including food, clothing and medicine, when they marched off with the seven.

There were no other whites on the farm at the time and no one else was abducted, he reported.

Zimbabwean troops have been stationed in Mozambique for the past four years guarding the strategic link with Beira, through which passes about 10% of Zimbabwe's trade and nearly all its fuel imports.

MNR rebels, who have caused widespread damage to the Mozambican economy throughout the country during more than a decade of civil war, have frequently kidnapped expatriates living in the country as part of their anti-Government campaign.

A group of 57 was released last December, into neighbouring Malawi.
Seven abducted from mission in Mozambique

HARARE — Seven people, including an American nurse, an Australian farm manager and an 18-month-old baby, have been abducted from a mission farm in central Mozambique.

Mozambique National Resistance rebels are believed to have attacked the mission run by the One Way Christian Centre under its Mission to Mozambique programme.

Kidnapped from the mission were Roy and Trish Perkins, both from Zimbabwe although Roy is an Australian citizen, Kindra Bryan, an American nurse, Joan Goodman, a nurse from Zimbabwe, and Philip and Victoria Cooper and their 18-month-old baby, Abigail, also from Zimbabwe.

Mr. Mike Oman, national director of Youth With A Mission in Zimbabwe, said Miss Bryan was working as a volunteer nurse. She arrived in Mozambique on Sunday.

The Zimbabwe army is taking part in the hunt for the missing people.

Mr. and Mrs. Cooper and their baby had been visiting the mission for a few days.

The United States Government is understood to be making approaches to the MNR office in Washington — Argus-Africa News Service and Sapa-Reuter.
Aid pouring in to help Mozambique's starving

Argus Africa News Service

Johannesburg — A second huge airlift of food into the Mozambican town of Inhambinga in the Sofala province has begun in order to avert mass starvation among the 15,600 residents and refugees there.

The airlift aims to provide the town with 200 tons of food and other commodities in the next two weeks, and is part of continuing relief operations in Mozambique being run by the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP).

ADVANCED STAGE

The WFP says it hopes the airlift will be the beginning of a more ambitious operation to feed a number of seriously affected areas in Mozambique.

It said the planning for this operation had now reached an advanced stage of preparation in conjunction with Italy, which intended to supply the aircraft, technical assistance and back-up.

The first airlift into Inhambinga consisted of 35 flights and comprised food, maize, dried fish, soap, skimmed milk powder and clothing.

The food is part of about 200,000 tons it is expected the WFP will channel into the country this year in order to feed the estimated 2.5-million starvation-threatened people in Mozambique.

Apart from this project, the WFP is operating two small coastal freighters and four barges from the port of Beira to deliver much-needed food by sea to coastal areas of Mozambique.
Mozambique bishops call for peace talks

Argus Africa News Service

MAPUTO. — Mozambique's Roman Catholic bishops have called for peace talks between the ruling Frelimo Party and the National Resistance Movement (MNR).

And they have criticised the presence of foreign troops helping the Government to fight the rebels.

In an episcopal letter the bishops said that peace depended on the Government and on MNR leaders who had "decisive power" over the conflict.

The Catholic bishops criticised the presence of foreign troops in Mozambique and said the internationalisation of the conflict threatened the country's sovereignty and made it more difficult to control the war.
Machiel crash was sabotage, say Soviets

MOSCOW — The Soviet Union said today that deliberate sabotage caused a plane crash in which Mozambican President Samora Machiel and 33 other people were killed last October.

But the Soviets stopped short of blaming South Africa for the disaster.

Deputy Civil Aviation Minister Mr Ivan Vasun said Soviet and Mozambican investigators, who at first cooperated with South African experts to establish the cause of the crash, rejected a report issued unilaterally by Pretoria blaming the Soviet crew.

Instead, he told reporters, the Soviet and Mozambican experts confirmed preliminary findings announced in January that a decoy beacon caused the Soviet Tupolev-134 to make a 40 degree turn west from its destination of Maputo airport and crash just inside South African territory.

Mr Vasun called for the resumption of three-way investigations to establish who was responsible for setting up the beacon.

Asked if Moscow blamed South Africa for the crash, he said: “We do not say so. But it was a terrorist act and we find out who actually placed the false beacon, we need another inquiry.”

He could not say whether the decoy was in South African or Mozambican territory but he said the plane crashed only 200 m inside South Africa.

Pretoria says the plane veered off course because the crew mistakenly tuned their radar to Matsapa airport in Swaziland instead of Maputo.

But Mr Vasun, using maps to illustrate the final route of the plane, said its radar had been tuned precisely to Maputo airport and the crew believed they were about to land there.

They ignored the altimeter suggesting otherwise because they believed it was faulty, he added.

Mr Vasun said no changes had been made to Soviet airliners as a result of the crash experience but crews had been briefed on how to handle such situations in future.

He avoided a question on whether Soviet crews were still flying the Mozambican presidential plane, saying only that several pilots were “on contract” to Mozambique.

SAP student commended

Official’s Africa visit provokes Mr. Strauss
MOSCOW. — The Soviet Union said yesterday that deliberate sabotage caused a plane crash in which Mozambican President Samora Machel and 33 other people were killed last October.

But it stopped short of blaming South Africa for the disaster.

Machel plane was sabotaged

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Machel crash sabotage USSR

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USSR rejects SA’s Machel crash report

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— Sapa- Reuter.
British aid deal for Mozambique spells trouble for MNR

Own Correspondent

LONDON — After visiting Britain recently, Mozambican President Joaquim Chissano returned home having secured increased military and emergency aid as well as an agreement to convert debt into grants.

By all accounts it was a highly successful visit.

But what could prove most valuable to him in his efforts to extricate Mozambique from the clutches of war and poverty is the support of Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher.

Perhaps the most important statement of the visit came from Mrs Thatcher when she said at a dinner for Mr Chissano: "Mr President, your visit comes at a time of undoubted difficulty for your country, affected as it is by guerrilla warfare and by attempts to destabilize your legitimate government."

While on first glance this appears to be a simple truism, it has important implications.

From it flows her decision to send a military attaché to Mozambique.

This attaché will not be just a link man but, according to Foreign Office Minister Lynda Chalker, will "assist with the management and organization of its forces."

Ms Chalker significantly did not dismiss out of hand reports that Britain would supply helicopters to Mozambique.

She said: "We have not discussed that in detail. That is a matter for further consideration."

Having already doubled the training programme for Mozambican officers in eastern Zimbabwe, Mrs Thatcher herself hinted at further military aid when she said: "There may be areas in which we can increase the help which we already give. We shall look further into this."

For MNR and its supporters, both in South Africa and the US, this is not good news.

On a military level, a Mozambican army organized by Britain will be more effective.

On a diplomatic level the ramifications will be more widespread.

Unlike Unita in Angola they are not being accorded the status of a legitimate liberation movement.

While conservatives in the United States accord them the status of freedom fighters, Mrs Thatcher does not.

With Mr Ronald Reagan an increasingly lame duck president, Mrs Thatcher, who is set to comfortably win a third term of office in June, is beginning to assume the mantle of the senior Western leader.

So no matter what conservatives in the US might want, the chances of a US administration adopting a position

Mr Joaquim Chissano

Mrs Margaret Thatcher

notes most European countries' strategies for the region.

Mrs Thatcher at her dinner for Mr Chissano went on at some length about Mr Machel.

He was, she said, a man of outstanding qualities who made an enormous personal contribution to the negotiations which brought Zimbabwe to independence.

"I also counted him as a personal friend," she added.

Turning to Mr Chissano, she expressed admiration for the way he had set about tackling the country's military and economic problems.

"You yourself have said that there can be no doctrinaire solutions," she stressed.

Referring to measures Mr Chissano had to enact in order to get an IMF rescheduling of debt, she said: "Often this requires very difficult decisions, but you have not shirked them. This
By all accounts his visit was a successful visit. But what could prove most valuable to him in his efforts to extricate Mozambique from the clutches of war and poverty is the support of Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher.

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So no matter what conservatives in the US might want, the chances of a US administration adopting a position contrary to that of Thatcher’s and providing moral, let alone military support for MNR, are extremely slim.

But what lies at the root of this incongruous alliance between an avowed Marxist leader and the woman who has set out to rid Britain of the last vestiges of socialism?

The continuing lack of progress in South Africa, the influence of the late Samora Machel and pragmatism, appear to be the keys.

Faced with a South African government hostile to any overseas pressures for change, Britain has adopted a two-pronged strategy in Southern Africa.

The first consists of opposing all sanctions moves while calling on the South African government to proceed in the direction of bringing about meaningful dialogue with black leaders.

The second and more active prong is a strong commitment to restoring peace and economic stability in the frontline states.

Simply put, it is a policy which emphasises the achievable rather than the moral outrage which predominates most European countries’ strategies for the region.

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“You yourself have said that there can be no doctrinaire solutions,” she stressed.

Referring to press reports that MNR had to enact in order to get an IMF rescheduling of debt, she said “Often this requires very difficult decisions, but you have not shirked them. This courageous approach will encourage others to help you.”

The last statement proved to be true even before Mr Chissano left Britain. Besides the R22.5 million extra aid Mrs Thatcher announced, bringing total aid to Mozambique to more than R100 million this year, Mr Chissano also got an agreement from both Britain and Italy to convert existing debt into grants.

More significantly, Ms Chalker said later he had confirmed to her that the IMF had agreed to reschedule Mozambique’s $3.2 billion foreign debt.

Mr Chissano himself predicted that the Paris Club of creditor nations would soon make a decision on converting debt into grants.

Mozambique is also set to receive $200 million of international emergency aid following an appeal from UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar in Geneva this year. A meeting will be held in Paris in July to drum up more support.

In all these decisions, while it is not clearly stated, the support of Mrs Thatcher has been an important factor in tipping the scales in Mozambique’s favour.
Russia queries report

The chairman of the board of inquiry into the air crash which killed President Samora Machel of Mozambique says a lengthy submission on the report has been received from the Soviet Union and is being considered by local and overseas members of the board.

Judge C Margra said in Pretoria that Colonel Frank Borman, of the United States, former British Appeal Court judge Sir Edward Everleigh and aviation crash expert Geoffrey Wilkinson, who all served on the board of inquiry appointed by the Minister of Transport Affairs, would be closely involved in the deliberations on submissions by the Soviet Union and Mozambique.

The Mozambique Political Bureau a week ago rejected the findings of the international board of inquiry into the death of President Machel near Komatieport last October.

The report of the board of inquiry has been sent to the International Civil Aviation Organization and a digest of the findings will be published internationally - Sapa
Maputo summit told of Nkomati violations.

SA accused of rising aggression.

MAPUTO — Leaders of the five Portuguese-speaking African countries have accused South Africa of violating the Nkomati Accord, stepping up aggression and being responsible for political instability in southern Africa. They said the plane crash that killed President Samora Machel had been caused deliberately.

A statement released at the weekend after a summit meeting in Maputo said: “The only force responsible for the climate of violence, terrorism and instability in the south of the African continent is the apartheid regime.”

The summit was attended by the presidents of Mozambique, Angola, Cape Verde, Guinea Bissau and Sao Tome and Principe.

The statement said: “The South African regime continues to fail to live up to the letter and spirit of the Nkomati Accord.”

“It is stepping up its aggression through the terrorist activities of the bandits it recruits, trains, arms, supplies, transports and leads.”

The leaders praised Zimbabwe and Tanzania for the military support they are giving Mozambique in its fight against rebels of the Mozambique National Resistance Movement (MNR).

On the plane crash in which President Samora Machel was killed, the statement said there was “every indication it had been deliberately caused.”

It did not directly accuse South Africa of being responsible for the crash but said the accident had happened “against a background of a fresh escalation of aggressive actions by the apartheid regime against the countries of the Frontline.”

The five Portuguese-speaking African countries called on Portugal to curtail the activities in Lisbon of representatives of rebel groups operating in Angola and Mozambique.

Call for inquiry to continue.

The Star Bureau

LONDON — The Mozambique government has not rejected the findings of the international commission of inquiry into the air crash in which President Samora Machel and 34 others died, but has called for investigations to be continued.

This is stated in a letter to The Times today by Miss D L Keet, director of the Mozambique Information Office in London. What the government has rejected, she says, were the conclusions of South Africa’s board of inquiry into the crash.

“The evidence produced from the flight recorders and other sources leaves vital questions unanswered, particularly the source of the VOR (high frequency omnidirectional radio beacon) that set the plane fatally off-course.”

“Mozambique wishes to see this evidence further investigated by the continuation of the joint inquiry involving Mozambique, the Soviet Union and South Africa.”
Air strikes nearly hit hostages, says MNR

The Star's Foreign News Service

LISBON — The Mozambique National Resistance movement (MNR) — holding captive seven people in central Mozambique — claim that air attacks yesterday aimed at the insurgent column "barely missed killing" the hostages.

The rebels, who say they plan to free the captives "as soon as possible," have appealed to Washington, Harare and Maputo for an end to "almost daily" strafing and bombing strikes.

"The (captive) people remain in good health," MNR spokesman Mr Paulo Oliveira said in Lisbon.

ATTACKS BY JETS

He said Mozambican and Zimbabwean MiG and Canberra jets and helicopters had carried out almost daily attacks against the guerrilla force that seized the seven captives — including a two-year-old girl and an American missionary nurse — at the Gondola mission on May 12.

The MNR, apparently marching towards the north in the direction of the lawn border:

The captives have been identified: as American missionary nurse Kindra Bryan, Australian agronomist Roy Perkins, his Zimbabwean wife Patricia, and Zimbabweans Phillip and Victoria Cooper, their two-year-old daughter, Abigail, and Joan Goodman.

Mr Oliveira said the MNR had contacted the International Committee of the Red Cross in Geneva and "other, diplomatic channels" to prepare for the release of the captives.
There's nothing romantic about life in...
MAPUTO

The Polana Hotel — an oasis of splendour in a city where hardship is the way of life for most

Across Maputo Bay red flares lit up the sky for several nights during my five-day stay while fighting continued not more than 40km away.

For the past 20 years Mozambique has been at war. Frelimo fought Portuguese colonialism until independence in 1975, then supported the battle against Rhodesia in the struggle for Zimbabwe. Since then there has been a relentless war against the MNR in the countryside.

Hardship

The war has gradually strangled the country, causing its inhabitants increased hardship.

Unlike other Mozambican towns in the central and northern provinces, which are closer to the combat zone, the war itself has so far left the capital of Maputo unscathed, except that it suffers the effects of the city.

Zimbabwean soldiers guarding their country's vital link to the seaport of Beira have made it impossible to drive from Beira to Maputo but that the road to the northern provincial town of Tete on the Zambezi River was somewhat safer.

Economically, Maputo has been hardest hit by the war, especially as far as supplies are concerned. There is nothing picturesque or romantic about doing your shopping in Maputo because shops are so poorly stocked.

In some cases shopping has become a full-time job, needing careful planning and to be conducted like a commando operation.

Most commodities are available — at a price. The state-run "people's supermarkets" should provide rationed staples like rice, sugar, flour and maize but their shelves, on the whole, remain depressingly empty.

Black market

These goods, however, can be found on the "Candonga" or black market at prices four or five times higher than the state shops.

A bag of maize could fetch up to 5000 meticais (R35) for a 10kg bag of maize meal on the "Candonga", while a US dollar is worth 1500 meticais.

A stroll through the fruit and vegetable market in the city centre on a Saturday afternoon revealed that prices had soared in line with the government's economic reform programme announced earlier this year, which is aimed at curbing the "Candonga" market.

The average Mozambican family cannot afford basic foodstuffs which meat does not form part of their diet.

Because of the difficulties of everyday urban survival epitomised in the capital Maputo, corruption of one form or other is mushrooming.

Corruption is further encouraged by extremely low wages.

But any wage or price increases would only help to fuel inflation Mozambique's chances of escaping from this vicious circle, symptomatic of a dog chasing its own tail, are all the more slender because nearly 50 percent of the country's food and industrial output goes on defence.

To survive, the population has to rely on shrewdness, ingenuity or pure luck.
Queuing for food is an everyday occurrence in Maputo

PICTURES: Craig Matthew
A young member of the Frelimo civilian guard, formed to protect rural communities against the MNR bandits
throwing a switch

Next month's Mozambique elections are a crucial test of whether the country's democracy is truly taking root. The internet provider, which is owned by a state company, is under fire for its role in the country's economy, which is largely dependent on coal. The company is accused of controlling the market and suppressing competition from other providers.

Econet could paralyse Maputo by shutting down the internet, but this is not unwise given the country's reliance on coal. The company's actions are seen as a threat to the country's economic stability.

The government has accused Econet of blocking access to its competitors, but the company denies these claims. The issue is complex, and both sides have their own agendas.

In the end, the outcome of the elections will determine the future of Mozambique's democracy, and the role of private companies in its economy.
Mozambican rebels are trained in SA, news agency claims

The Star's Africa News Service

MAPUTO — South Africa is training rebels of the Mozambique National Resistance movement (MNR) in camps near Nelspruit, Phalaborwa and White River, the Mozambique News Agency, Amn, has claimed.

In addition South African helicopter and planes are now regularly violating Mozambique's airspace and the South African Navy is infiltrating rebels through the coastal areas of Mozambique, the agency added.

Commenting on the claims, a SA Defence Force spokesman said it was surprising that any credibility was given to these unsourced allegations which were issued at regular intervals.

They were quite normal for an agency like Amn which did not have a very good track record as far as factual information about South Africa was concerned, he said.

In a long report on the security situation in parts of Mozambique, Amn said a large group of rebels who had recently been infiltrated through the border areas of Mapulenguene and Macaene in northern Maputo province, were now concentrating in the coastal area of Calanga.

It added that there had recently been frequent moves by groups of guerrillas in that area.

"This movement is usually noted during the night and is thought to be related to the reception of supplies by sea," it added.

The agency quoted an unnamed militia commander as saying rebels and supplies were being brought from South Africa by sea.

Another unspecified military source said a rebel group which recently attacked the holiday resort of Bilene was "well armed and wore new uniforms which could only have been supplied by South Africa."

A rebel who had recently been captured said he had been trained at a South African base near Pafuri.

Amn said South Africa was forcing Mozambicans entering South Africa in the Nelspruit and Komatipoort areas to join the MNR.

"Some of these Mozambicans are enticed with offers of payment as R300 a month for unspecified work. They are later taken to training camps," the agency said.

The general staff of the Mozambican armed forces said that airspace violations by South Africa were increasing, with frequent overflights in Maputo province by planes and helicopters.

"Helicopters land just over the border at night, and drop supplies and armed bandits," a spokesman for the Mozambican general staff was quoted as saying.
MAPUTO — South African commandos are said to have killed three Mozambicans early today in attacks on four houses in the well-to-do Polana residential district of Maputo, the Mozambican capital.

The Mozambican News Agency, which issued the report, claimed it was the first direct attack on Mozambique by SA forces since the two countries signed a security pact three years ago.

Two of those reportedly shot dead with silenced weapons were Antonio Fateguna, the brother-in-law of the chief-of-staff of Mozambique's armed forces, and his wife.

The third victim was said to be a night watchman at a house used by SA refugees in transit through Mozambique.

One of the houses attacked contained offices of the African National Congress, the news agency said. It said no one was killed at the ANC offices.

The news agency said the attacks were conducted simultaneously by groups of four men traveling in cars. The cars were reported destroyed close to the Indian Ocean beachfront and the attackers were said to have left Maputo by boat.

An unnamed eyewitness said one of the attackers at the refugee house told him in Portuguese to "disappear — we have work to do."

In Pretoria an SA Defence Force spokesman said the Defence Force was "not prepared to comment on unsubstantiated allegations of involvement in incidents in Mozambique."

"There have been similar attempts in the past to link the Defence Force with incidents elsewhere, for example, in Harare recently," the spokesman said.

"In this case foreign television personnel and others were later apprehended." — Sapa-Af
Frontline States to receive aid from Soviets

HARARE — The Soviet Union has pledged about R20 million to the Mozambican Aid Fund (MAF), the Soviet Ambassador to Zimbabwe, Mr Arkady Glukov, told a press conference here yesterday, according to the semi-official Ziana news agency.

Mr Glukov, whose country recently donated R200 million to the Non-Aligned Movement's Africa Fund, said the Soviet Union supported developing countries and was prepared to help the Frontline States "rebuff" South Africa's provocation and to be independent of the regime.

The ambassador said his country also had plans to help the Frontline States establish three vocational training centres in the region.

He said the Soviet government would provide up to 50 teachers and all the necessary equipment. It would also send 800 specialists in such fields as civil engineering and medicine.

"There are 1,000 scholarships available for the Frontline States, as well as the liberation movements in SWA/Namibia and South Africa — Swapo and the ANC," he said.

— Sapa
Mystery of commando, raid in Maputo
Maputo-Moscow links 'remain strong'

The Mozambique Government is reported to feel that the US has not fulfilled its promises of support.

The review said further development of Soviet-Mozambican relations should be seen against the background of the security and economic crisis in Mozambique.

There had been mutual incomprehension and resentment because of the apparent inability of the Soviet-equipped and trained Mozambique army to face the MNR threat, but "given the deteriorating situation and the limited options available for Mozambique it is a matter of course that Chissano will accept aid from those willing to give without posing preconditions which would endanger Mozambique's non-aligned status."

Western support for its 'war against the MNR had not been successful in 1986. American aid to Mozambique since Nkomati had been limited to emergency food aid due to right-wing congressional opposition to development assistance and military support.

Thus, the Mozambican Government felt that the US had failed to deliver on promises of support which it had made on the occasions of the Nkomati Accord and President Sa-
Raiders from SA, claims Mozambique

13 Commandos captured

The Portuguese news agency quoted witnesses as saying the attackers left the apartment from the road, with a spotlight mounted on a small, open-backed track.

**Diplomatic contact**

The Mozambican government issued a statement last Monday strongly condemning the attack, Lusa said.

A spokesman for the South African Department of Foreign Affairs today confirmed there had been diplomatic contact between South Africa and Mozambique.

He indicated that South Africa had not been given any proof of the allegations. South Africa has a trade mission in Maputo.
Raid was SA's, says US

WASHINGTON. — The United States last night condemned what it called an "especially brutal attack" on civilians in Mozambique and said evidence clearly indicates the raid was carried out by South African commandos.

And in London a senior official of the British Foreign Office yesterday went to the South African Embassy to express concern at the Maputo raid.

The protests followed reports by the Portuguese news agency, Lusa, that South African commandos, travelling by car and boat, killed three Mozambicans early yesterday in rocket attacks on African National Congress targets in Maputo.

However, a South African Defence Force spokeswoman yesterday declined to comment on what she termed "unsubstantiated allegations".

The Cape Times was told that the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Pek Botha, was unavailable for comment on the allegations yesterday.

Lusa and the Mozambique news agency, AIM, said the victims were a night guard at a house used by ANC members, and Mr and Mrs Antonio Pateguana.

Mr Pateguana was a sound engineer for an entertainment group, and brother-in-law of Mozambique's military chief-of-staff.

The Pateguanas' two children, three and five years old, were reportedly left alive in the attack on the couple's apartment in a beachfront residential area, where many government officials and diplomats live.

The ANC said in Luanda that the attacks were part of a terror campaign against the movement and Southern African states that support it.

AIM said the raiders hit four houses, one containing ANC offices and another used by ANC members in transit through Mozambique. The second house, where the night guard died, was reportedly heavily damaged by bazooka rounds.

Two other targets were the Pateguanas' home and a house where an unidentified Tanzanian lived. The Tanzanian's home was said to have been attacked with rockets and gunfire, but the commandos were reportedly repelled by guards.

Gathering at a nearby beach, the commandos blew up cars they used in the raid and were evacuated by boat, AIM said.

In Washington, the State Department spokesman, Mr Charles Redman, said eyewitnesses reported that white English- and Portuguese-speaking commandos drove into Maputo in vehicles with South African registration plates.

The troops entered four homes, locked the children up in other rooms and shot their parents with silenced revolvers, Mr Redman said.

By JOSE GAETANO

ONE of the members of the alleged South African commandos who attacked four different residences in Maputo early yesterday morning was a white woman, a well-informed non-governmental source in the Mozambican capital claimed yesterday.

According to the source, the raiders were conducted by four units of attackers, comprising black and white soldiers clad in army-type raincoats with caps that covered most of their faces.

One of the units attacked a block of flats in Jose Mateus Street, close to the suburb of Ponta Vermelha. There, the raiders, among whom was a white woman, divided into two groups.

One group took position on the pavement and pointed a powerful spotlight at the block of flats, illuminating most of the front of the building. A tenant of a flat on the second floor of the building, who came to his balcony to investigate, was fired on but was not hit.

To page 2
"We condemn in the strongest possible terms the attack," he said. "The available evidence points clearly to South Africa as the instigator of this premeditated and especially brutal attack."

Mr. Redman said that among those killed were the sister-in-law of Mozambique's Minister of Culture, who is currently visiting the US, and her husband, the brother-in-law of Mozambique's military chief-of-staff.

Mr. Redman said the US would raise the issue with the South African government. He did not elaborate.

In London the British Foreign Office Deputy Under-Secretary, Mr. Alan Munroe, was met by Embassy Minister Mr. Justus de Goede and the Deputy Director of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Carl von Hirschberg, who is visiting London.

Mr. Munroe asked the officials to convey to Pretoria that the British government "deplores all cross-border incursions which can only undermine efforts to improve regional stability."

On Thursday reporters in Maputo were shown a man who identified himself as Jaime Mondlane or Daniel Amos Madonsela, and said he had been arrested in Mozambique two months ago while spying for South Africa on military installations near the border.

In a further development, Zimbabwe's Minister of State for Security, Mr. Emmerson Mnangagwa, said yesterday that he had advance details of a new attack South Africa planned to launch against this country.

"It is coming soon," he said, "and I know where they plan to hit.

"Mr. Mnangagwa charged South Africa with perpetuating a myth that guerrillas in that country are based in neighbouring states.

"When bombs go off left and right in South Africa their response is to bomb other frontline capitals," he said. -- Sapa-Reuter-AP, UPI and Own Correspondent
No claims yet for commando strike but... SA is slated for Maputo raid

South Africa's refusal to accept responsibility for the commando attack on Maputo has left the affair shrouded in mystery.

Nevertheless, worldwide criticism has put the blame squarely on South Africa's shoulders.

The United States charged South Africans with murder, "alleging a premature attack and especially brutal attack" and said some victims were murdered after being taken to a "war room." Britain condemned the raid as a threat to regional stability.

African Prime Minister Mario Soares said it was "a barbarous attack by South African forces" and "cowardly." The Mozambican news agency AIM said a raid by four South African commandos on a house in Maputo in early October left three Mozambicans dead.

AIM said the attackers arrived in jeep and an hour later drove to the house and destroyed it before leaving by boat.

A South African spokesman was not prepared to comment on unsubstantiated allegations of involvement in the 1980s.

"There have been similar attempts in the past to link the SADF to incidents elsewhere.

More reports on Page 2 for example in Harare recently." - "In a case of foreign TV personalities and others were apprehended." 

AIM said the three Mozambicans killed in the attack were murdered by a South African commando group. It said the commandos attacked a house in which the African National Congress maintained offices, another house used as a transit center for South African refugees (where a nightwatchman was killed), a house occupied by a Tutsi man and another house in which they killed a Mozambican couple.

The couple were identified by other sources in Maputo as a local businessman, Mr. António PINTAS, and his wife, Mrs. Rosemary FONSECA, who is also chief of staff to the army and a member of the executive council of the ruling Frelimo party.

The Star's Africa News Service reports that if the Mozambican account is accurate, the SADF's refusal to accept responsibility for the attacks may further cloud its image in the region.

Mozambique National Resistance (MNR) guerrillas might want to attack several targets in Maputo but would have no reason to be in the ANC.

Mozambique claims the attackers escaped by boat. They also said the rebels are not known to have any naval equipment. - "The Star's Africa News Service - Reuters - Sapo - Associated Press"

Mahobe owes on racehorses

As speculation grew last year about the whereabouts of an unknown person named Mr. Daniel Mahobe - the man who sold the Standard Bank fraud that was allegedly staged to be bought racehorses worth nearly 75 million on credit before his disappearance.

They were bought at the annual horse sales at Gatworth Park just over a month ago. In a development yesterday, The Sunday Star was reliably informed that Mr. Mahobe, supposedly a bookmaker, is a fact married man with children.

Mr. Mahobe, owner of the front running National Soccer League club Mamelodi Sun downs, owes 300,000 in credit to the ANC.

The Star's Africa News Service reports that if the Mozambican account is accurate, the SADF's refusal to accept responsibility for the attacks may further cloud the ANC's image in the region.

The Mozambique claim the attackers escaped by boat. They also said the rebels are not known to have any naval equipment. - "The Star's Africa News Service - Reuters - Sapo - Associated Press"
Detained girl accused of spying

HARARE — A 14-year-old Bulawayo girl, Lisa Spalding, was still being detained by police last night on allegations of spying for a foreign government, working hand-in-hand with the MNR and with Matabeleland dissidents, and with making derogatory remarks about the President and Prime Minister of Zimbabwe.

She and two young men, Paul Lecluse (22) and Wayne Markham (19), were detained earlier in the week along with two others who have since been freed. One of them, 17-year-old Stephanie Murray, was allegedly slapped repeatedly in the face.

The arrest of the group came after a traffic incident involving a policeman when insults were said to have been voiced about Zimbabwe’s leaders.

Lawyers for the youngsters obtained a court order for access to them by a doctor, but by late yesterday a doctor had not been able to examine Miss Spalding. — Saturday Star Africa News Service.
Refugee (28) problem claimed

The Mozambican ambassador to Malawi, Amos Mahanjane, says more than 200,000 Mozambicans are living in resettlement camps in Malawi without sufficient food, clothing and shelter after fleeing from the effects of drought and civil war in their country.

Mahanjane had just returned to Malawi from a six-day visit to Mozambique where he held talks with government officials and non-governmental organisations which are helping displaced Mozambicans.

Speaking in Lilongwe, Mahanjane said that, in addition to Malawi, there were many more displaced Mozambicans in other neighbouring countries.

He said his government was planning to repatriate the refugees by settling them in Tete province.

The success of the repatriation exercise would depend on co-ordination between the Mozambican government and the United Nations High Commission for Refugees. – Sapa.
Pik again denies SA role in raid

PRETORIA — The Foreign Minister, Mr Pik Botha, last night restated official South African denials that the Republic was involved in Friday’s raid on Maputo, and suggested that opposing factions of the African National Congress were responsible for the violence that left three people dead.

The Minister said in a statement that a climate of violence and uncertainty had overcome Maputo and “gunfire and explosions are the order of the day”.

There existed in Maputo — “as elsewhere in neighbouring states” — opposing factions of the ANC who would not hesitate to use violent methods to “eliminate” those with whom they disagreed.

The Foreign Minister said examples of this sort of violence had been seen recently in Swaziland and Harare.

It was also known that there were forces in Maputo which had vested interests in driving a wedge between the Mozambique and South African governments.

Such forces would “not hesitate to use violent methods”.

Mr Botha also belied the anti-South African propaganda from neighbouring states was aimed at countering the American Senate move to withhold political aid from countries which allow terrorists to operate from their territories against South Africa. — Sapa
SA answers for Machel crash probe

Transport Reporter

South African members of the Machel crash commission of inquiry have drafted replies to the Soviet and Mozambican submissions to the commission, said the chairman, Mr Justice C S Margo.

He said the draft replies would be sent to the overseas members of the commission and, if they concurred, would go to the Minister of Transport Affairs, Mr Ebi Louw, who would release the commission's report.

The overseas members are former astronaut Colonel Frank Borman of the United States, accident investigation expert Mr Geoffrey Wilkinson and former Lord Justice of Appeal, Sir Edward Eveleigh, both of the United Kingdom.

Mr Justice Margo said that under the Chicago Convention on Civil Aviation, he could not divulge the response of the Soviet Union and Mozambique to the commission's findings before the report was released.

Thirty-four people, including President Samora Machel and 17 of his top officials, were killed when the Soviet-built Tupolev TU-134A aircraft crashed near Komataipoort on October 19 last year.
Plight of refugees discussed

LILONGWE — The Mozambican Ambassador to Malawi, Mr. Amos Mahanjane, says more than 200,000 Mozambicans are living in resettlement camps in Malawi without sufficient food, clothing and shelter, after fleeing from the effects of drought and civil war in their country. Mr Mahanjane, has returned to Malawi this week from a six-day visit to Mozambique, where he held talks with government officials and non-governmental organisations which are helping displaced Mozambicans.

Speaking in Lilongwe, Mr Mahanjane said there were many more displaced Mozambicans in other neighbouring countries.

He said his government was planning to repatriate the refugees by settling them in Tete province. The success of the repatriation exercise would depend on co-ordination between the Mozambican government and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees — Sapa.
Raid ‘may have been by ANC faction’

PRETORIA — The Foreign Minister, Mr Pik Botha, has suggested that opposing factions in the African National Congress were responsible for Friday’s raid on Maputo that left three people dead.

In a statement to Sapa, he said a climate of violence and uncertainty had overcome Maputo and “gunfire and explosions are the order of the day”.

“Recently, landmines have exploded on the beach of Maputo, killing civilians,” he said.

There were also in Maputo — “as elsewhere in neighbouring states” — opposing factions of the ANC who would not hesitate to use violent methods to “eliminate” those with whom they disagreed.

The Foreign Minister said examples of this sort of violence had taken place recently in Swaziland and Harare.

“RIDICULOUS”

It was also known there were forces in Maputo with “vested interests” in driving a wedge between the Mozambique and South African governments.

Such forces would “not hesitate to use these sorts of methods”.

The ungrounded allegations against South Africa regarding the Maputo raid joined a “choir of hysterical cries” from certain neighbouring countries, his statement said.

Mr Botha referred to the arrest of schoolgirls in Zimbabwe on allegations of spying for South Africa, and described such actions as “ridiculous extremes”.

Mr Botha also believed the anti-South African propaganda from neighbouring states was aimed at countering the American Senate decision to withhold financial aid from countries which allowed “terrorists” to operate from their territories against South Africa.

A MISTAKE

In most cases the propaganda served to cover up internal problems and maladministration in these countries.

Mr Botha said he stood by his statement on Friday about the alleged South African attack on private houses in Maputo.

In that statement, he rejected allegations that South Africa had been responsible for the attacks and said the claims were unfounded.

The statement also said the Mozambican Government had made a mistake when parading an alleged spy, who turned out to be a “common criminal”, before the international press.

The man was alleged to be a South African spy charged with arranging the deaths of senior members of the Mozambican Government — Sapa.
Mozambique: We hold 3 SA raiders

THE Mozambican security forces claimed at the weekend that they had captured three members of a South African commando group that killed three people in a raid on Maputo on Friday morning.

Mr Fernando Goncalves, a spokesman for the Mozambican Information Agency (AIM), last night told the Cape Times the links between the raiders and the three people arrested were being investigated.

He said this information came from a briefing between Mozambican Foreign Minister Mr Pascoal Mocumbi and foreign diplomats in Maputo on Friday.

"He did not say what nationality they were," Mr Goncalves said. Mr Mocumbi could not be reached for further comment yesterday.

According to Sapa-AP reports from Maputo, the commandos left behind two pick-up trucks, a mini-bus, three hand-grenades, ammunition and a smoke-bomb.

AIM said documents found in the mini-bus indicated the three vehicles used by the attackers came from SA. It said the two pick-up trucks were partly destroyed by the commandos and left at the seashore near the mini-bus.

Police found two infra-red torches on a sea wall, still lit and pointing out to sea, apparently having been used as signals before the attackers escaped by boat.

A government communiqué says the attack on four Maputo houses on Friday was an attempt by SA special forces to kill ANC members.

It says the attack was aimed at ANC offices. Killed in the attacks were Mr Joao Chavane, 22, a watchman at a house used by the ANC to store clothing for SA refugees, and Mr Antonio Patenguana and his wife, Suzana. They were shot in their third-floor apartment, because the attackers mistook them for ANC members who lived nearby, the government said.

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Mr Patenguana was director of an entertainment company and brother-in-law of Mozambique's armed forces chief of staff. His wife was the sister-in-law of the minister of culture.

The US accused SA of involvement in the raid and sternly condemned it.

Britain has condemned the attack. Tanzanian Foreign Minister Mr Ben Mkapa said it was "the latest senseless and brutal act of the SA regime".

Zambia condemned the raid and accused SA of carrying out the attacks in violation of the non-aggression pact.

Zambia's Foreign Minister, Mr Luke Mwanashikhu, said the raid showed SA had not been honouring the agreement with Mozambique. Condemnation also came from China.

- The SADF has declined to comment, saying it did not comment on unsubstantiated reports.

Mr Forte, Foreign Affairs Minister of South Africa, said the weekend that he had nothing to add to the statement.

He said the Mozambican government "has repeatedly been warned that they should act against ANC terrorists who continue to murder South Africans".

He said it was therefore not correct for the US to allege there was any readiness on Mozambique's part to discuss security matters in the region.

He also rejected the US accusation that the bomb explosions in Maputo could be attributed to SA.

"In the case of bomb explosions in SA, the US has been reluctant to react. However, the US is quick to condemn SA when bomb explosions occur in neighbouring countries without substantiating their allegations."
Airlift to save starving villagers in N Mozambique

By IAIN CHRISTIE

CAIA, Mozambique — In this dusty little town on the south bank of the Zambezi river, the depths of human misery are literally laid bare.

Once proud and prosperous people line up silently, clad only in strips of sackcloth, to await handouts of food and clothing sent by international donors.

Frail old men shuffle along as thin as the sticks that support them. Youngsters stare vacantly, their distended stomachs — cruelly bloated by protein deficiency — mocking the emptiness within.

In the queue for cast-off clothes, a girl gets a pretty dress that must once have been worn at parties in Europe. She pulls it on and only then modestly takes off the strip of sackcloth around her loins.

In the line for maize meal and flour, the former rich and former poor come together as beggars. A man in his 50s, who used to own a thriving shop here, poses for a photographer, his regal moustache and erect bearing a sharp contrast to the strip of sackcloth that is his only clothing.

Nkomati Accord

There is drought in the lower Zambezi valley, central Mozambique. But the people of Caia are also victims of a ravaging civil war waged for the past decade by right-wing Mozambican National Resistance (MNR) rebels fighting the Frelimo government.

Mozambique says the MNR is backed by South Africa and that support has continued in spite of a non-aggression treaty signed by the two countries more than three years ago. Before the Nkomati Accord was signed in March, 1984, the MNR mainly operated in southern areas of the country close to South Africa.

But since then, the focus has shifted further north, particularly to central areas east of Malawi.

Caia, which lies only 75km from the southern tip of Malawi, was overrun by the MNR in 1985. The people fled into the bush, where — unable to grow food — they survived as best they could on roots and berries.

The town was recaptured by government troops in February after what must have been a fierce battle. Spent cartridge cases still litter the ground.

A Mozambican officer told Reuters about 70 “armed bandits”, as the rebels are officially termed, were killed.

The people who now line up for food are a mixture of returning residents and displaced persons from nearby areas. The planting season has passed and their survival now depends on international aid.

Airlift

That has been coming for the past two weeks in the form of a United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) airlift. An ancient Dakota, provided to WFP by the Mozambican national airline, brings in three tons of grain and flour, unloads in 10 minutes and returns to the port of Beira south of here to pick up more food for other stricken areas in the Zambezi valley.

The pilot said his aircraft and one other Dakota had delivered 200 tons of cereals to Caia and three other relief centres in the valley in the first two weeks of the airlift.

It is an expensive way to distribute food with the airlift estimated to cost six times the value of the food.

Arturo Hein, UN special co-ordinator for emergency relief operations in Mozambique, says it is justified as the only quick way to reach people living under “extreme conditions”.

The local government administrator of Caia, 32-year-old Mr. Francisco Semo, said his distribution problems were enormous with about 8,000 people in his area dependent on the aid.

But he added: “Get us more food and clothes I can handle it.” — Sapa-Reuters
Nkomati pact under pressure

It has been claimed South Africa has given clandestine support to the MNR, Mozambique, condemning the latest attack, said: "This action is all the more serious because there is a non-aggression accord in force between Mozambique and the Republic of South Africa. Our country has scrupulously observed this accord."

One analyst interpreted this statement as an appeal to Pretoria to honour the Nkomati pact. The United States, which played a key role in bringing about the accord, swiftly condemned the attack, saying it showed the futility of Pretoria's attempts to deal with its internal crisis by violence against its neighbours.

ANC officials in Maputo linked the attack to the swing to the right in the recent elections in South Africa.

"President Botha is increasingly trying to look tough to avert further losses to the right," one official said.

Shortly before the May 6 general election, Pretoria's commandos raided the Zambian tourist town of Livingstone, killing four people.

Earlier this month, Zimbabwe linked Pretoria to two separate bomb blasts in Harare. — Supa-Reporter
be said that modernization in these countries, to cope with internal problems and in most cases the propagated external South African economic policies, with the clear intention to attract capital, Turkish experts do not recommend economic development to the detriment of political freedom. The Turkish experts see the mistake of the West in visiting those countries.

Untounged allegations

Mr. Bhaga also depicted the anti-African discrimination and South African nationalization and South African internal affairs as "Untounged allegations." He said the interest in driving a wedge between the countries was based on the theories of "decoupling" the contact points in the continent on the continent and South Africa. The situation is such a way that the West is trying to drive a wedge between the countries.

(continued)
Washington about to betray Mozambique

SIMON BARBER in Washington

TDP meeting raises questions of judgment, more serious questions of conflict of interest are raised as a result of a letter sent by Marshall I. Wais, MD of Marwais International, to four US Senators. In that letter, Wais urges the Senators “to support the appointment of Melissa Wells as the US Ambassador to Mozambique.”

Helms concludes that, as a result of these allegedly grave improprieties, he intends to have the Republican Congressional caucus demand that Wells’s name be withdrawn altogether.

W

hich is absurd. The Senator’s charges, while more or less based on fact, are utterly spurious, the insinuation that Marwais, by revamping a steel fabrication plant outside Maputo will somehow be undermining US jobs is a baldfaced lie.

The would-be Ambassador — who happens, incidentally, to be a veteran diplomat with considerable experience in Francophone Africa (and is also an extremely interesting character; she was once a Las Vegas showgirl) — has done no wrong.

Indeed, by trying to help the US private sector get involved in Mozambican development, she seems to be doing everything that Ronald Reagan and a Congress justly dubious about foreign aid could ask.

As for the allegation that she, and the State Department, are somehow backing a communist regime, it may be wondered just how communist a regime can be that is prepared, nay desperate, to welcome US Marwais developments without demanding majority ownership or imposing the least restriction on the repatriation of profits.

But no, Helms and his crew would gladly block the few thousand dollars required for the Marwais feasibility study in favour of spending a few million on Renamo so that Mozambicans can starve and have limbs blown off on an indefinite basis, and Freilimo can be forced back into the arms and philosophy of Moscow.

The tragedy is that Helms, Dole and others like them could well win the day, not only in blocking Wells’s appointment but also in forcing the administration to back away from its support for Chissano.

With a Democrat-controlled Senate recently voting 95 to 0 to urge that sanctions be applied to Angola — and 77-15 to cut off all aid to the SADCC unless its members evict the ANC — even worse is possible.
América's evidence on Matabele raid: They're not telling

From NEIL USSLER

WASHINGTON — In spite of the American service's silence, the facts are all too clear.

The Angolan Front's statement on the South African attack says, "They're not telling..."

The evidence does not indicate that the Angolan Front was involved in the South African attack.

In fact, the Angolan Front's statement indicates that they were not involved.

However, the official claim is that the Angolan Front was involved in the South African attack.

According to the Angolan Front's statement, they were not involved.

The Angolan Front's statement reads: "They're not telling..."

The Angolan Front's statement is not accurate.

The Angolan Front's statement is not consistent with the evidence.

The Angolan Front's statement is not supported by the evidence.

The evidence does not support the Angolan Front's statement.

The evidence indicates that the Angolan Front was not involved in the South African attack.

The Angolan Front's statement is not credible.

The Angolan Front's statement is not reliable.

The Angolan Front's statement is not trustworthy.

The Angolan Front's statement is not verifiable.

The Angolan Front's statement is not substantiated.

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Federation plan run off the rails

KEN POTTINGER in Lisbon

End TAPE and passive resistance are weapons in a new war being waged in strife-torn Mozambique where the powerful public service objects to proposals for a federation with neighbouring Zimbabwe.

According to Xavier Figueiredo, editor of a confidential Lisbon newsletter on Africa, popular opposition is mounting against perceived attempts by Prime Minister Robert Mugabe’s government and British interests to impose a scheme 19th Century colonists failed to achieve.

The federation idea is embraced by Harare as a way of ending an 11-year-old insurgency by anti-Mozambican rebels which has cut Zimbabwe’s shortest route to the sea through Mozambique’s Beira Corridor.

But memories have not faded of Cecil Rhodes’s efforts in the 1890s to annex access to Beira against Portuguese colonial interest.

Diplomatic reports reaching here say feelings are running high over a Zimbabwean plan to install a military occupation and administrative force in the central Mozambican provinces of Manica and Sofala through which the vital corridor runs.

This 300km corridor containing a railway, road and oil pipeline from the port of Beira to the Zimbabwean border town of Mutare is vital to the economies of the Frontline States. It is a priority target for sabotage attacks by Renamo guerrillas.

Western diplomatic sources in Lisbon say Harare’s plan was endorsed by British government officials in discussions in London with Mozambican President Joaquim Chissano during his visit early last month.

They justified a leading defensive military role for Zimbabwe as the only way of guaranteeing efficient administration and a prosperous economy in the affected zone. Harare has been using the same argument.

Meanwhile, British military advisers to Mozambique have reported that the corridor is defensible provided a foreign military presence is installed.

But critics of the plan say the price — Mozambican sovereignty is too high. Maputo, for obvious political reasons, has considerable reservations.

Nevertheless, the scheme referred to by some Zimbabwean politicians as the “grand plan” — is being actively pursued by the Beira Corridor Group (BCG), an amalgam of British multinationals, financial interests and political and military figures close to Mugabe.

Mugabe has appointed Denis Norman, a competent senior public servant formerly with the Ian Smith government, to head the organisation.

Despite publicity by BCG’s backers in Zimbabwe, the project has not sparked great enthusiasm, mainly because of noise in using the corridor and the high port and freight charges at Beira.

Renamo sources in Lisbon say current priority guerrilla targets are not the oil pipeline and high tension power cables between the Chisamba dam and Beira.

Despite a military cordon of Zimbabwean troops stationed at

3/6/87

SHOW OF HANDS ... but this time Zimbabwe’s Mugabe stands behind Mozambique’s —

2-187
Pik lashes out at the West

By ANTHONY JOHNSON
Political Correspondent

THE Foreign Minister, Mr Pik Botha, yester-
day lashed out at Canada, the United
States and Mozambique in the wake of
international condemnation of South
Africa for the latest Maputo murders and
signs of a thaw in relations between the
West and the ANC.

Mr Botha said he knew of no evidence of
South African involvement in the Maputo
killings and Mozambique was unable to
produce such evidence.

Indeed, South Africa's attempts to keep
the Nkomati Accord alive and even im-
prove it had not met with Mozambican
"reciprocity", he said.

Mr Botha also claimed that the United
States acted "too impulsively" in accusing
South Africa of complicity in the Maputo
raid which left three dead.

The US administration, he said, realized
its sources on the Maputo incident were
not as correct as originally imagined and
for this reason Washington had changed
its reasons from boycotting the Republic
Day festivities from the raid to a more
generalized displeasure with South Afri-
can actions in the region.

Mr Botha said he also believed that the
US might have accused South Africa of
complicity in the Maputo killings in a bid
by the administration to circumvent trou-
ples in Congress over actions in Nicaragua.

Turning to Canada, Mr Botha said that
country's response to a recent letter from
President P W Botha to Prime Minister Mr
Brian Mulroney had contained "distor-
tions" and "to put it mildly was simply bad
manners.

President Botha had not, as reported,
asked Mr Mulroney to break Canada's
links with the ANC but had merely urged
that Western leaders tell the perpetrators
of violence that reprehensible deeds
would not be supported by the civilized
world.

A spokesman for the US Embassy said
yesterday that Washington stood by its
original statement condemning South
Africa as the instigators of the Maputo
murders.

Mr Botha's suggestions that the US had
switched its reasons for the Republic Day
boycott were also dismissed. Only one
statement expressing general displeasure
with South African activities in the region
had been issued.

Meanwhile, prominent reports in the
Nationalist press that the US Ambassador
to South Africa, Mr Edward Perkins, had
been recalled by President Reagan in the
wake of the Maputo commando raid were
also dismissed by the US Embassy.

Mr Perkins' press spokeswoman, Ms
Elizabeth Pryor, said the ambassador's re-
turn to Washington had been scheduled
"months ago" and his planned meetings
with Mr Reagan had been set up before the
Maputo raid.

Mr Perkins had a long-standing arrange-
ment to attend a chief of missions meeting
in Washington and then take a few weeks'
home leave. "There is no way he was re-
called by President Reagan," she said.
HARARE — Japan yesterday joined in the condemnation of the Friday morning commando attack on Mozambique which, it alleged, was by South Africa, the semi-official Zimbabwean news agency Zimna reports.
MNR rebels strike in Zimbabwe

LISBON — Mozambican right-wing rebels appear to have carried out their threat to extend their country's civil war to neighbouring Zimbabwe, with their claims of attacks on military bases there.

The Mozambican National Resistance (MNR) said in Lisbon yesterday it had struck at bases in three towns in south-eastern Zimbabwe on the Harare-Mutare road and in two remote northern villages near the border on Sunday. It gave no details.

Zimbabwe made no immediate comment and there was no independent confirmation of the report.

"The war in Zimbabwe has begun," MNR spokesman in Lisbon Paulo Oliveira said.

He said the rebels had set up fixed bases in Zimbabwe and planned to

Mr. Mugabe has stepped up aid to Maputo since the death of Mozambican carry out regular strikes. He did not elaborate.

Oliveira said the attacks were aimed at making Harare withdraw the 12,000 Zimbabwean troops stationed in Mozambique.

Zimbabwe's President Robert Mugabe pledged last October that his country would fight to the last man to prevent the rebels topping the Marxist Government in Maputo.

Zimbabwe's series of offensives against rebel strongholds in central Mozambique.

A diplomat from the region said that if the reports of the raids were true, it could mean Harare's support of Mozambican forces could be weakened, as Zimbabwean troops would be obliged to cover installations in their own territory.

The rebels' aim is obviously to convince Mugabe's Government it will have to pay a price for continued support (of Mozambique)," he said.

The diplomat doubted whether the rebels had actually set up bases inside Zimbabwe.

But he said it would be easy to stage cross-border raids, particularly from central Mozambique, as members of the Shona tribe live on both sides of the frontier and rebels could pass undetected.

The MNR insurgents say Tanzanian, Zambian, Malawian and Khoisan troops are also in Mozambique, helping Maputo fight the rebels. — Sapa-Reuter.

President Samora Machel is a plane crash last year.

The new Government of President Joaquim Chissano has launched a
US 'no' to aid plan with Soviets

WASHINGTON — The United States opposes a congressional proposal to co-operate with the Soviet Union to distribute food to residents of Mozambique, the State Department said yesterday.

The proposal was made by two US congressmen to Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev in Moscow earlier this year. It called for joint US-Soviet distribution of grain to an estimated 4.5 million Mozambiquan residents said to be suffering from food shortages.

State Department spokesman Mr Charles Redman said that while the US shared the concern of House of Representatives Speaker Mr Jim Wright and Representative Mr Mickey Leland — both opposition Democrats — it did not think their proposal was valid.

"We do have reservations about a joint undertaking with the Soviets," Mr Redman said.

He noted that the United Nations had already set up a disaster relief effort in Mozambique "which we believe is well co-ordinated and with enough trucks for emergency needs".

Mr Redman said the US had to work through the UN because the organization was in contact with private contributors and donor governments and "it can best match needs with donations."

He noted that at an international conference on humanitarian aid to Mozambique held in Geneva in March, the US had pledged $75 million (about R1.2 billion) while the Soviets committed $300,000 (about R6 million).

"Despite the Marxist leanings of the Maputo government, the US has strongly supported it in an effort to maintain its influence in Southern Africa," Sapa-AP
US still insists SA was involved in Maputo raid

Neil Lurssen
Foreign Service
WASHINGTON — Despite South African denials, American officials are standing by their angry allegations of complicity in last week's raid in Maputo.

They insist that all the available evidence in American hands points to South African involvement but concede that the evidence does not include a "smoking gun with Afrikaans writing on it."

In accordance with the usual practice of protecting their sources, US officials are not prepared to lay out in public the evidence they claim to have but one said: "In the past and now, we do not lightly make claims of South African involvement in actions like these. We have been taken to task by others in the past, rightly or wrongly, for being too much on the South African side."

He said there was enough evidence to point to South African involvement "and we are going to stand by that until we see evidence to the contrary. If we do, we will recant our earlier statements."

The attack in Maputo, which he described as "particularly vicious", fitted the pattern of raids such as the one in Livingstone for which South Africa had admitted responsibility.

The Americans say the vehemence of their condemnation of the Maputo raid was partly due to dismay at recent events both in South Africa and in the region, such as the Livingstone raid, Group Areas enforcement pressure, the detentions of children and now the Maputo attack.

Some analysts suggest that the Reagan Administration may be stepping up its condemnation of South Africa because of its desire to increase influence with black opposition groups and they suggest that the vehemence of the statement on Maputo may reflect political problems the Administration has with its Mozambique policy — right-wing pressures that have apparently made Mozambique leaders anxious about continued US backing and fearful that the US may support the MNR as its supports Unita.

"PRODUCE EVIDENCE"

Asked for a comment on this analysis, a Reagan official described it as "cynical." The fact, he said, was that the United States was genuinely disconcerted about the direction of events in South Africa and the region.

South African Foreign Affairs Minister Mr Pik Botha said yesterday there was no evidence of South African involvement.

Mr Botha said he had invited the US State Department to produce evidence "but they always say they cannot because they have to protect their sources."

The US government has denied it had changed its reasons for boycotting South Africa's Republic Day festivities. Mr Botha said the initial reason for the boycott had been the Maputo incident.

"When they saw they might have been too hasty they quickly broadened the reason for their action to say it was also because of other incidents in the region, in case their sources were incorrect."

The US Embassy said the reason for not attending had always been the US Government's "general displeasure" with South Africa.

Mr Ray Swart MP, Progressive Federal Party spokesman on foreign affairs, said it was "logical that we should ask for firmer evidence."

Mr Swart said Mr Botha's statement was "at least a stronger denial than the one by the Defence Force which was really just a refusal to comment."

"It is not unknown that the SAPF and Foreign Affairs have had different viewpoints."

Mr Swart said the shootings could have been carried out to try to implicate South Africa but it would be "too difficult to explain why the US government had accused South Africa."

The Americans had a representative in Maputo who should have been able to substantiate the story.
Maputo raid: US stands by charging SA

WASHINGTON — The US yesterday refused to back away from charges that South Africa was responsible for a raid on the Mozambique capital of Maputo last week in which at least three people were killed.

"I would reiterate again, based on a continuing review of information, that we stand by what we said," State Department spokesman Mr Charles Redman said.

Mr Redman said he could not respond to a challenge from SA Foreign Minister Mr Fik Botha to produce evidence to back up allegations of SA's involvement in the raid.

"I am not in a position to bring forward evidence, but what we are seeing does not detract from the kind of indications we have, already," he said. Sapa-Reuters
MNR strikes in south

The Star's Africa News Service

MAPUTO — After three years of relative calm, rebels of the Mozambique National Resistance (MNR) movement are again active in the southern province of Inhambane, reports the Mozambique news agency, AIM.

Government sources have blamed the sudden increase of MNR activity to a move southwards by guerrillas from Mozambique's central provinces where the Zimbabwe Army is supporting government troops.
In Maputo, every angry finger points at Pretoria

THE South African government’s denial of responsibility for last Friday’s commando raid into Maputo has raised loud guffaws in the Mozambican capital.

“Who is (Pik) Botha trying to fool?” asked the Maputo daily Noticias, after the foreign minister had tried to attribute the raid to “internal” Mozambican affairs.

“Isn’t Botha tired of making ridiculous public statements every time the regime needs to justify or hide its atrocities?” queried Noticias.

No alternative identity for the raiders has been proposed, and two of the targets had very clear South African connections. One was the local office of the African National Congress. This is the second time that ANC offices in Maputo have come under attack. In October 1983, South African commandos bombed the ANC offices, and, although nobody was killed, damage was so extensive that the ANC was forced to find new premises. That raid was admitted by the South African government, and one of its authors, Capt. Wynand du Toit, is currently in Luanda prison after attempting unsuccessfully to destroy oil installations in Angola.

A second target for Friday’s attack was an ANC-owned house used to store clothing and foodstuffs for distribution to South African refugees. Here the Mozambican night-watchman, Joao Chavane, was murdered and his body burnt.

Two homes were attacked. In one, the director of the Mozambique entertainment company, Antonio Patenguana, and his wife Suzana Pinto were shot dead in front of their young daughter.

Patenguana was the brother-in-law of the armed forces national political commissar, General Armando Pan-guene, while Pinto was the sister-in-law of the Minister of Culture, Luis Bernardo Honwana.

ANC members were living in the block next door, and the Mozambican government communiqué on the raid suggested that the murderers had simply chosen the address wrong.

The fourth target was the home of a Tanzanian businessman. Perhaps this was another case of faulty intelligence, or perhaps this house was chosen almost at random, simply as an act of intimidation.

All the targets except the ANC office are close to President Joaquim Chissano’s office. Thus the commandos may have been pointedly warning the Mozambican authorities of South Africa’s ability to strike at the most sensitive part of the city.

The raiders apparently used three vehicles—a Mitsubishi minibus, and two Toyota pick-up trucks. These were found abandoned at the Maputo sea-wall, and the two trucks had been set on fire.

But in the minibus documentation was found referring to one of the Toyotas, and giving the name and address of the presumed owner as “Du Pre NA, Berez, 172 Bryanston Heights, 2198 Johannesburg.”

On the sea-wall police found two infra-red torches switched on and pointing out to sea. This adds to the general belief that most of the raiders made their getaway by boat.

However, the Mozambican media say that some of those involved in the raid have been captured. But no further details of these individuals are yet available, not even whether they are South Africans or Mozambicans.

The funeral of the victims, on June 1, was given a high profile by the government.

MarcelinoDos Santos, number two in the Mozambican hierarchy, read the main eulogy. He accused the South African government of direct responsibility for the murders, and restated Mozambique’s determination to go on offering hospitality to South African refugees “We will give shelter to whoever we like, whenever we like and however we like,” he declared.

By coincidence, the Friday raid took place just hours after President Machel had presented further allegations and evidence of South Africa’s war against Mozambique to journalists.

On Thursday May 28, a Mozambican who had been captured while spying for South Africa was shown to the press in Maputo. Twenty-eight-year-old Jaime Mordiana said he had been recruited by South African military intelligence when he was in Tembisa township in 1983.

The Weekly Mail has been unable to find any trace of the building given as the address of the owner of the Toyota.
25,000 tons food for Mozambique

HARARE.—At least 25,000 tons of food was distributed in Mozambique last year, through the Harare-based World Vision Mozambique (WVM) programme.

The latest issue of World Vision's News said supplies of maize, beans and oil were distributed in Mozambique's Gaza, Manica, Tete and Zambeza provinces.

WVM said although the drought had slackened in most of the country, Mozambicans still had to fight against its after-effects — flooding and locusts, and against insurgency which had disrupted economic development.

WVM had extended its relief effort to rehabilitation, to make people self-reliant. — Sapa.
23 000 see spectre of starvation

MAPUTO — More than 23,000 people are facing food shortages in Panda district of Mozambique's southern Inhambane province, the Maputo daily, Noticias reported on Thursday.

It quoted district administrator Domingos Guame as saying the shortages were mainly due to drought.

The winter harvest of vegetables was expected to be low because the district had been supplied with seeds of poor quality, he told the paper.

Guame was quoted as saying 3,000 of those at risk had been displaced from their home areas by right-wing Mozambican National Resistance (MNR) rebels, fighting to topple the government since shortly after Mozambique's independence in 1975.

He said the MNR had attacked Panda town early last month.
— Sapa-Reuters.
Frelimo 'needs help to survive conflict'

By Robin Drew,
The Star's Africa News Service

HARARE — The Frelimo leadership in Mozambique will have to mobilise substantial internal and international support if it is to survive the escalating regional conflict.

This is the conclusion of an American academic, Mr Allen Isaacman of Minnesota University, who presented a paper at the Conference on Regional Security in Southern Africa sponsored by the London-Based International Institute for Strategic Studies and the University of Zimbabwe.

Mr Isaacman said the security crisis posed the most immediate and serious challenge for President Joaquim Chissano.

President Chissano was likely to continue the efforts of his predecessor, the late President Samora Machel, to forge an autonomous, non-aligned policy. This implied expanding ties to the West while seeking to sustain improved relations with the Soviet Union.

The Soviet Union had increased economic and military aid to Mozambique and had provided oil at favourable prices.

"However," he said, "most foreign-policy analysts remain sceptical that such a non-aligned strategy will generate the level of assistance Mozambique requires and it may very well alienate one or both of the superpowers."
Mozambique invites Tutu

Anglican Archbishop Desmond Tutu is to be a guest of the Mozambican government at the country's 12th independence anniversary and will be received by President Joaquim Chissano during a two-week tour of the country.

Archbishop Tutu leaves for Maputo on Monday and returns to Johannesburg on June 29.

The tour involves political and religious appointments, including ordination and confirmation services. — Religion Reporter.
Maputo alleges SA has infiltrated 1 000 guerillas

The Star's Africa News Service

MAPUTO — South Africa has infiltrated 1 000 Mozambican National Resistance guerillas (MNR) into the southern Mozambican province of Gaza, the Mozambican armed forces radio programme, Voz do Combate, claims.

The broadcast said the guerillas had been infiltrated over the past two months, and join 300 others who had entered the province earlier.

In Pretoria, a spokesman for the Department of Foreign Affairs said: "We reiterate South Africa's standpoint that it does not allow anybody to operate from its territory against any neighbouring country."

AIM, the Mozambican news agency, said later that guerillas had been landed on the Gaza coast while others had been infiltrated across the border.

AIM speculated that the reason for the sudden increase of MNR activities in the area might be related to Zimbabwe's and Mozambique's decision to reopen the Limpopo railway line that links Maputo to Zimbabwe.

It added that recent MNR defeats in the northern part of the country were also a contribution to the guerillas' infiltration in the southern parts.

Voz do Combate confirmed earlier reports of an upsurge in fighting in the southern provinces.

It said that in the first week of June 150 MNR guerillas had been killed when five of their camps were destroyed in the provinces of Maputo, Gaza and Inhambane.

A group of 30 guerillas based near the town of Namaacha, near the border with Swaziland, had also been eliminated, it said.

It said that in one incident in Gaza province, 28 anti-government guerillas had been killed near the town of Guipu.
MAPUTO. — The Archbishop of Cape Town, the Most Rev Desmond Tutu, arrived here yesterday to a rousing welcome at the start of a two-week visit to Mozambique. He was met by the head of the Mozambican Anglican Church, Bishop Dinis Sengulane, who had invited him to make the pastoral visit. He was also met by Deputy Foreign Minister Mr Daniel Mbanze and thousands of people signing hymns and revolutionary songs and waving anti-apartheid banners.
Black South Africans were prepared to talk to the Government, Archbishop Tutu said.

"We want to talk, we don't want to fight.

But they could not talk when there was a state of emergency, while children were in detention, while authentic leaders were in jail, detention or exile and "when our political organisations — which most of our people support — are not allowed to operate. We are being perfectly reasonable."

Negotiations were a long way off, the archbishop said.

"The Government is trying to make out that they want to talk but they deny other people they want to talk to. Yet the black community has made it clear who they regard as their authentic spokesmen.

Clearly, if we were able to get the private sector to exert pressure on the Government we would make further forward in the process. When the value of the rand was low the private sector suddenly discovered they were more articulate than at any time before that. Now, with the prospects of gold rising and with the rand becoming stronger, the private sector is beginning to be more concerned with making profits than pressuring the Government to talk."

One of Archbishop Tutu's first actions on his arrival in Maputo yesterday was to lay a wreath at the tomb of former Mozambican President Samora Machel.

The archbishop said afterwards that the wreath-laying was a very moving ceremony for him. He said his trip to the Diocese of Lobundo gave him the opportunity of paying tribute to Mr Machel.

"I do so on behalf of very many in our country who wish to show their solidarity with the people of Mozambique."

He noted that this year marked the 25th anniversary of the founding of Frelimo. The significance of the Mozambican struggle against colonialism and racism was that it had to be linked to the fight against apartheid.

Archbishop Tutu said:

"The struggle in southern Africa was not black against white but a struggle against exploitation and injustice."

The archbishop will hold a public service in Maputo today to mark June 16.

"These are sobering and dark days," he said yesterday. "But as everyone knows, the darkest hour is before the dawn. The enemies of our struggle cannot quench the flames of liberation because our people want to be free."

The archbishop is visiting Mozambique at the invitation of the Anglican Church. During his visit he will confer with 39 candidates in Zambesia, visit clergy around Caxito and Hambone and will meet Mozambican President Joaquim Chissano next week.
Thousands welcome Tutu in Maputo

MAPUTO — Archbishop Desmond Tutu arrived here yesterday to be greeted by thousands of Maputo residents carrying banners in praise of South Africa's outlawed African National Congress and urging an end to apartheid.

He said on arrival: "Although things are tough now, it is God's world and I know that we will be free."

One of the first duties undertaken for the Archbishop of Southern Africa was the placing of a wreath at the "Monument to the Mozambican Heroes". It is a huge star-shaped edifice over the graves of President Samora Machel, who died in a plane crash, and other revolutionary leaders.

The national AIM news agency quoted Archbishop Tutu as saying that while he stood at the monument, he had thought of "man's inhumanity to man."

Asked about the Nkomati Accord in which Mozambique and South Africa agreed not to support terrorists in each other's territory, the Archbishop said, "I am quite surprised that Mozambique still tries to abide by the accord on its side when it seems to be in tatters on the South African side."

He added: "Many South Africans are deeply distressed by the policy of the South African Government against its neighbours. When apartheid disappears, so the problems of many other countries will end."

The 55-year-old cleric will meet with Government and church officials and ordain new priests during his two-week visit to Mozambique.

He is also scheduled to celebrate Mass in the capital and in outlying areas. — Sapa-AP
The Minister for Foreign Affairs,

We take this opportunity to commend the Joint Security Agreement in the Jaffa St. area of Tel Aviv, which was signed on 12 February 1996 between the Israel Defense Forces and the Palestinian Authority.

We are confident that this agreement will contribute to the stability and security of the area and will facilitate the implementation of the overall peace process in the region.

The parties have agreed to cooperate in the maintenance of law and order, the prevention of criminal activities, and the conduct of joint operations to combat terrorism.

We hope that this agreement will be a stepping stone towards a lasting peace in the region.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs
Tutu lays wreath at tomb of Machel

Argus Africa News Service

MAPUTO — Archbishop Desmond Tutu began his tour of Mozambique by thanking the country's people for their part in helping free South Africa from apartheid.

He was speaking after laying a wreath at the tomb of former President Samora Machel it was his first stop on his two-week tour of Mozambique.

Many of the problems experienced by frontline states would disappear when apartheid disappeared in South Africa, Archbishop Tutu said.

"IN SUFFERING"

"Apartheid is a cause of untold suffering, not just in South Africa but even in neighbouring countries. We look forward to the day when South Africa will be totally free.

"We would like to express our thanks for the support you have given to our struggle to become a truly free country."

Black South Africans were prepared to talk to the Government, Archbishop Tutu said: "We want to talk, we don't want to fight."

"IN DETENTION"

"However, they could not talk, when there was a state of emergency, while children were in detention, authentic leaders were in jail, detention or exile and when our political organisations which most of our people support are not allowed to operate. We are being perfectly reasonable."

Negotiations were along way off.

"The Government is trying to make out they want to talk but they identify the people they want to talk to. Yet the black community has made it clear who they regard as their authentic spokesmen."

"PRIVATE SECTOR"

"Clearly, if we were able to get the private sector to exert pressure on the Government we would be much further forward. When the value of the rand was low the private sector suddenly discovered they were more articulate than any time before that."

He was to hold a public commemoration service in Maputo today to mark June 16.

He said Mozambique commemorated June 16 because on this day in the 1960s a massacre had taken place during the struggle against the Portuguese.
SA wants Magnus to meet man in Maputo

Political Staff

SOUTH Africa has asked for an urgent meeting between the Minister of Defence, General Magnus Malan, and his Mozambican counterpart to discuss security.

This has emerged from replies given by the Foreign Minister, Mr Pik Botha, to questions tabled by Mr Colin Eglin (PFP Sea Point) in Parliament.

Mr Botha said South Africa had consistently attempted to improve relations with Mozambique through talks and discussions, but this was thwarted by emotional outbursts by the Mozambican government "such as in the case of the recent incident in Maputo for which South Africa was one-sidedly blamed for the attacks".

Mozambique has suspended its participation in the Joint Security Commission in July 1985, he said.

(Talks about talks, but ... See page 14).
Urgent call for security talks with Mozambique

By DAVID BRAUN
Political Staff

SOUTH Africa has requested an urgent meeting of its Minister of Defence with his counterpart in the Mozambique Government to discuss all aspects of security concerning the two countries. This emerged from replies given by Foreign Minister Mr. Pik Botha to questions tabled by Mr. Colm Eglin (FFP, Sea Point) in the House of Assembly yesterday.

Mr. Botha said Mozambique had suspended its participation in the Joint Security Committee (JSC) after the publication of the so-called documents of Gorongosa in July 1985. Although the allegations contained in these documents were discussed on various occasions by delegations of the governments of both countries culminating in talks at Komatipoort in November 1985, no session of the commission had been held since.

Mr. Botha said since then, President Botha and President Machel met at the occasion of the coronation of the Swazi King on April 25 1986.

Thus, this meeting was followed by a meeting between ministerial delegations at Skukuza on May 2 1986 for talks on a wide range of subjects including security.

A Joint Liaison Committee (JLC) was established, distinct from the JSC, but whose terms of reference included, as a question of priority, the security situation underlying South African/Mozambican talks.

The second meeting of the JLC was scheduled for May 27 1986, but was postponed by Mozambique. A tentative arrangement for a meeting on June 12 1986 was subsequently found by South Africa to be inconvenient.

On September 2 1986 the Deputy Director-General of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Nel van Heerden, visited Maputo to convey a proposed meeting at ministerial level to engender confidence and for a further discussion of the security situation Mozambique asked for time to consider this.

On January 21 1987 Mr. van Heerden again visited Maputo to arrange for a discussion to take place at the level of Ministers of Defence. Mozambique said the time was not right for such a meeting but agreement in principle was given for talks to continue.

The Mozambique Minister of Co-operation was invited for talks in South Africa on March 22 en route to Geneva. He met Mr. Pik Botha in Pretoria.

Mr. Botha said he made it clear that Southern Africa needed peace and that it was to bring about development and stability and that the onus was on himself and the Minister of Co-operation of Mozambique to take steps to bring this about.

Mr. Botha again suggested a meeting of the Ministers of Defence as an important step to bring about peace.

This was approved by Mozambique in principle but again it was made clear it was still too early for such a meeting. Such a meeting should be preceded by a meeting of officials to prepare the way for the Ministers to meet one another in due course.

The matter was pursued by the South African Trade Representative in Maputo in routine talks with the Minister of Co-operation.

No progress was made until May 4 1987 when the Minister intimated that a possible date could be discussed after his return from the presidential visit to the United Kingdom later that month.

Mr. Botha said no discussions could be arranged before May 29 when the trade representative was summoned to hear the minister's condemnation of South Africa's alleged involvement in an attack on Maputo the previous night.

Later on the same day a note was handed to the Mozambican government in which the South African government, its request, frequently conveyed to the Mozambican authorities in the past, for urgent high-level talks on all aspects of security which concern South Africa and Mozambique.

This message was conveyed to the Minister of Co-operation on May 30, 1987. The trade representative, in a telephone call to the minister that night, offered to arrange the meeting within two days of the Mozambican government's communication of its preparedness to enter into the envisaged talks.

The Minister of Co-operation left for Japan on June 5 without replying to the trade representative.

The trade representative then arranged for a meeting with the Minister of Labour on the same afternoon, on which occasion he again requested an urgent response to the proposal for security talks between the two countries.

No reply had been received to date.

Mr. Botha said South Africa had consistently attempted to improve relations with Mozambique through talks and discussions but had been thwarted by emotional outbursts by the Mozambican government "such as in the case of the recent incident in Maputo for which South Africa was one-sidedly blamed for the attacks."
Court orders tapes on Tutu visit returned

The Argus Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG — Police seized foreign network TV video tapes of Archbishop Desmond Tutu’s visit to Maputo after they had read about the visit in local newspapers, a security police major told the Rand Supreme Court before being ordered to hand them back.

Security police seized four tapes at Rand Airport from the pilot of the aircraft chartered by American ABC, German ARD and British ITN television networks after it landed yesterday afternoon.

The networks last night brought an urgent application in the Rand Supreme Court for the return of the tapes and police were ordered to do so by Mr Justice Stegmann.

Two of the tapes were filmed on Monday, recording Archbishop Tutu’s arrival at Maputo Airport and of a Press conference he held later. The other two tapes were filmed yesterday at a public June 16 rally.

REGULAR TAPES

A German ARD television crew filmed the events. It plans to accompany Archbishop Tutu for the full two weeks of his tour and to send out tapes regularly.

Lawyers for the networks first asked a Major Smit of the Germiston branch of the security police, who authorised the seizure, to return the tapes. But he refused, saying a police expert would view them first.

Major Smit told the court he read reports in two newspapers about the Maputo visit and received information that an aircraft would land at Rand Airport with tapes from Maputo.

In the light of what he had read he decided they could be evidence in the commission of an offence and he suggested in court that this could be high treason or terrorism.

Mr Justice Stegmann ruled that the police were not empowered to seize the tapes because they did not have reasonable ground to believe they could be used as evidence in the commission of an offence.
MICHAEL HARTFACK IN HERBE
The Beira Corridor is almost on track

NEWS FOCUS

ATTENTION TO PREPARATION

[Image: Photograph of a person]
Chissano: ‘Machel’s death was murder’

MAPUTO — President Joaquim Chissano of Mozambique this week claimed that President Samora Machel’s death in an aircraft crash last October was murder.

He was speaking on Tuesday in the northern town of Mueda in an address broadcast in full by state radio on Wednesday night, the official news agency AIM reported.

Reacting to the remarks, the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Kobus Moring, said last night that President Chissano could not possibly profess to have exact knowledge of the cause of the accident in which his predecessor died.

Mr Moring said the only body which could authentically make a finding on the issue was the Margo inquiry.

“Both Mozambique and the USSR refused to participate in this commission’s operations beyond the stage of gathering physical information. The motives for attempts to pre-empt the findings of the commission will undoubtedly become clear when the report is published,” Mr Moring said.

Mr Chissano, citing a long history of external violence directed at Mozambique, said: “Our enemy murdered our President Samora Machel.”

Mr Chissano, who was appointed to succeed Mr Machel two weeks after the crash, added: “This aircraft was diverted from its path. Special apparatus placed on the ground far from Maputo. Communicated with the aircraft and provided false information as to the route that the aircraft should follow. He did not die through a simple accident.” — Sapa-Reuter.
Mr Gandhi electoral losses. — Sapa.
Slovo ends Mozambique visit.

MAPUTO. — The secretary-general of the South African Communist Party, Mr Joe Slovo, has ended a visit to Mozambique during which he met President Joaquim Chissano. — Argus Africa News Service.
Tutu comments: Charges possible?

By CHRIS ERASMUS

POLICE may be considering charges against the Archbishop of Cape Town, the Most Rev Desmond Tutu, for alleged comments made during his visit to Mozambique.

According to the Police Directorate of Public Relations in Pretoria, security police yesterday declined to comment on press speculation that such charges might be brought.

But transcripts of the archbishop’s comments obtained by the Cape Times show he has been quoted out of context and, in some cases, misquoted, in South African newspaper reports.

The possibility of charges, including high treason, being brought against the archbishop were raised earlier in the week during a successful Rand Supreme Court application by the German television network ARD for the return of seized video tapes of Archbishop Tutu’s Mozambique visit.

During the application, Major N G Smit of the security police said he had made his decision to seize the tapes after reading newspaper reports of the archbishop’s utterances in Maputo.

The major was quoted as referring to a report in the Citizen newspaper in which the archbishop allegedly claimed he would give the signal for violence to start in South Africa.

Yesterday in a front-page article, the Citizen speculated on possible police action against the archbishop, quoting “top sources” as having confirmed that “utterances made abroad by Archbishop Tutu, where he has made most of his major announcements, have been closely scrutinized for possible contraventions of the law for some time, particularly for his call last year for sanctions against South Africa.”

The report reiterated that “Major Smit had based his decision (to seize the tapes) on local newspaper reports, quoting Archbishop Tutu as saying he would give the signal when he felt violence was necessary to end apartheid.”

‘Suspicion’

Major Smit had claimed the tapes were seized “because there was a reasonable suspicion that the material contained evidence of a suspected crime, possibly of high treason,” said the report.

The Burger said in a report carried on Wednesday that “Dr Tutu said the day before yesterday (Monday) that he would announce the day on which the ‘ungjust system’ of apartheid in South Africa would be overthrown (omgewerp).”

But verbatim transcripts obtained by the Cape Times of the archbishop’s comments, made on his arrival in Maputo on Monday and during a rally marking the 11th anniversary of the Soweto student uprising of June 16, 1976, show that he has been widely misquoted.

On Monday, an address held soon after his arrival in the Mozambican capital, the archbishop said in answer to a question on whether black South Africans had yet reached the stage where they had turned solely to violence to achieve liberation:

“I would say that I will tell you the day I believe we must tell the world that now we have reached the point where we must use violence to overthrow an unjust system.”

“I don’t believe we are there yet and the onus really lies with the international community.”

The next day, at the June 16 rally, he said “If there’s going to be peace, if there’s going to be prosperity, if people are going to live happily together in South Africa and in Mozambique, Lesotho, Swaziland, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Angola and Namibia, we call on the international community to help us destroy apartheid before it destroys us.”

Reacting to the archbishop’s comments, the Rev G S J Muller, moderator of the Western Cape synod of the Ned Geref Kirk, said “I don’t think it behoves a man of faith, a minister, to consider violence in any way, because the church must work for conciliation and peace and not use violence.”

Dr Beyer Naude, outgoing general secretary of the SA Council of Churches, said he was not prepared to comment till he had spoken to Archbishop Tutu personally about the remarks and had had time to read the full transcript in which they were contained.

The Roman Catholic Archbishop of Cape Town, the Most Rev Stephen Naidoo, was not available for comment yesterday.
‘Enemies murdered him’

MOZAMBIAN leader Joaquin Chissano has publicly charged for the first time that Mozambique’s late President Samora Machel’s death in a plane crash last October was murder.

Citing a long history of external violence directed at Mozambique, he said on State radio on Wednesday: “Our enemy, which is colonialism, still colonises, our enemy, which is racism, are still racists, and they decided to resort once again to violence and murdered our President Samora Machel.

“He did not die through a simple accident. It was provoked, something set up, it was a provoked accident, well-planned by our enemies.”

Charismatic Marxist leader Machel died on October 19 when his plane crashed into a hillside just inside South Africa.
FIRST MAJOR RAID ON ZIM BY MNR REBELS
By DON JACOBS
Harare

THE Mozambican resistance movement has carried out its first mass revenge raid into northeastern Zimbabwe.

The raid follows recent Zambian strikes at MNR strongholds deep in rebel areas close to the Malawi border.

Zambian troops fought the raiders and gave them a bloody nose.

But military observers fear the rebels' precipitate flight back into Mozambique's Tete province is only part of deliberate "hit and run" tactics.

A force of 100 MNR guerrillas crossed the Zambian last Sunday near the frontiers of Malawis, where tens of thousands of destitute Mozambican civilian refugees are clustered around a UN-supervised relief camp.

Irony

A massive task force of Zambian troops was rushed to the area following the incursion and the Zambian authorities attempted to impose a news blackout.

Ironically, it was in the same area that Zimbabwe's ZANU rulers launched their ultimately unsuccessful guerrilla campaign against Mr. Ian Smith's Rhodesian regime 18 years ago.

Between 6,000 and 12,000 Zambian troops are currently stationed in central Mozambique.

Their main task is defence of the vital "Biafra corridor" to the Indian Ocean, but their support of President Joaquim Chissano's government extends to offensive against rebel bases.

Refugees

Zimbabwe's border defence problem is compounded by the influx of 60,000 to 80,000 Mozambican refugees.

A UN spokesman in Harare confirmed this week that more than 1,000 were crossing the border each week, creating an "appalling" situation.

Mr. Mugabe's one-time political chief, and founder of Zimbabwe's ruling ZANU Party, the Rev. Joshua Nkomo, is now in exile in the United States.

He has vowed to form an alliance with the MNR to begin a guerrilla war inside Zimbabwe in order to topple Mugabe's government.

Teachers seek closer links with radicals

By HENRY LUDSKI

The Cape Teachers' Professional Association (CTPA) hopes to forge closer links with more radical extra-parliamentary organisations such as the United Democratic Front (UDF).

This was stated by the association's president, Mr. Franklin Soni, at the 25th annual CTPA congress in Port Elizabeth this week.

The move is likely to worsen the CTPA's relations with the Labour Party-dominated Ministers' Council Relations, which remains strained last year when the association withdrew its representatives from the Government education committees.

At this week's congress, the 21,000-member CTPA again slammed the Labour Party and the Ministers' Council in the House of Representatives for their continued "political interference" in education matters.

Mr. Soni said his organisation had an obligation to enter into "more concrete" discussions with such organisations as the UDF, the Congress of South African Trade Unions (Cosatu) and the National Education Crisis Committee (NECC).

Boycotts

Conceding that his association had neglected to maintain proper contact with such organisations, Mr. Soni said: "We now hope to correct this.

However, his organisation would not have better with its professional integrity, he added.

Defending his organisation from criticism that it was conservative, Mr. Soni said: "It's a bloody unjust description.

Just because we are a professional body and respond to situations in a calm and rational way does not make us not radical!"

His organisation would not condone school boycotts, said Mr. Soni.

"We are committed to education and believe boycotts should be seen only as an extreme option.

Mr. Soni told the congress: "We are looking for leaders who are strong enough to declare that the state of emergency should be lifted, that the Ciskei should get out of the townships, and that people who are being held in custody - especially children - should immediately be released from detention.

Mr. Soni called for the unbanning of the ANC and its leader, Nelson Mandela.

Mandela and Oliver Tambo should be included in negotiations for a new South Africa, he said.
Sweeping changes in Mozambique military

MAPUTO. — President Joaquim Chissano announced far-reaching changes in top military posts on Saturday, replacing the man who has headed the armed forces since independence in 1975.

No new job was announced for Colonel-General Sebastiao Mabote, who also lost his post as deputy defence minister to the new armed forces chief, Lieutenant-General Antonio Hama Thai, formerly the commander of the air force. Mabote is a member of the Marxist Frelimo politbureau which has governed Mozambique since its independence from Portugal.

At a ceremony at general staff headquarters, Pres Chissano named new commanders of the three armed services, changed the military command in nine of the country’s 10 provinces and shuffled directorships in charge of manpower, telecommunications, logistics, transport and mobilization.

Since 1976, the government has been involved in a guerilla war with the Mozambique National Resistance, which was originally funded and supported by South Africa.

The war, drought and the MNR’s tactics of attacking roads, bridges, schools, clinics and other infrastructure have hampered development in the country and caused serious famine in some areas.

Lt-Gen Thai had served in the past as governor of Tete province, military commander of Inhambane province and chairman of the Maputo city council.

Mr Chissano announced the new post of commander of the army and named Lieutenant-General Tobias Dai to fill it. He was the military commander in the central province of Manica.

Captain Manuel Gimo Caetano is now commander of the navy.

Major General Domingos Fondo, former military commander of the southern province of Inhambane, was appointed head of the frontier guards — Sapa-AP.
Mr. Speaker, I rise to draw the attention of the House to the grave and pressing question of the recent series of events in the United Kingdom. The situation is such that it requires the immediate and urgent attention of the House.

The recent actions of the Government in the United Kingdom have caused widespread concern and outrage. The measures taken by the Government have been met with strong opposition from various quarters, including the opposition parties, civil society organizations, and the media.

The House is aware of the significant implications of these actions for the future of the United Kingdom and the wider international community. It is clear that the House must take decisive action to address this situation and ensure the democratic process is upheld.

I therefore urge the Government to reconsider their actions and to engage constructively with all stakeholders to find a peaceful and acceptable solution to this crisis.

Finally, I call on the House to express its support for the principles of democracy, human rights, and the rule of law, which are foundational to our way of life.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.
MAPUTO. — The National Security Service said yesterday it had detained a South African commando who admitted responsibility for a bomb blast in Matola on March 13 that killed two people.

The agency said in a statement that the suspect, George Olimpio Nunes Alersson, claimed to be a native of Angola and was carrying a South African passport at the time of his arrest. It did not say when he was arrested.

Alersson "has confessed to being a member of a commando unit of the South African armed forces specializing in acts of sabotage, subversion and terrorism in neighbouring countries," the statement said.

It said Alersson and other commandos infiltrated into Mozambique earlier this year to kill Mozambican-based members of the African National Congress.

An SADF spokesman last night denied "that this person was a member of the SADF." — Sapa-AP
Zimbabwe pledges to ‘eliminate’ Renamo

HARARE — Zimbabwe’s President Canaan Banana pledged yesterday at the opening of a new session of the national parliament that Zimbabwean troops would remain in Mozambique till armed rebels there had been “eliminated”.

It was the first government statement on Zimbabwean military aid to its Marxist ally since rumours, claiming to be Mozambican rebels, massacred 15 peasants in the north-east of Zimbabwe on Saturday night.

They left leaflets vowing to increase their attacks in Zimbabwe till Zimbabwe pulled out of Mozambique.

President Banana did not mention the attack in his 30-minute address.

“Our operations inside Mozambique are not only to keep our (oil, road and rail) routes safe. They are also to eliminate the Renamo (Mozambican National Resistance) bands of Mozambique,” Pres Banana said.

Mozambique’s Indian Ocean port of Beira is an important outlet for landlocked Zimbabwe, which has sent some 12,000 combat troops to keep its trade routes to the sea open — Sapa

Police denounce ‘grey areas’ action

JOHANNESBURG. — Police yesterday denied there was a “crackdown” on “grey areas” in Mayfair or any other part of Johannesburg.

Lt Pierre Louw, a police liaison officer for the Witwatersrand, was reacting to reports that people in Mayfair had been asked by the Police Group Areas Branch to report to John Vorster Square.

Details of those who owned the buildings in which they were resident were then taken.

Lt Louw said the branch acted only on complaints received, and at present there were no more complaints “from Mayfair or any other area” than in the past — Sapa
Mozambicans flee to SA

GAZANKULU — Thousands of refugees from Mozambique, many of them suffering from malaria, have settled in Gazankulu as a result of the unstable political and economic conditions in Mozambique, SABC radio news reported yesterday.
Tutu meets Chissano after touring Mozambique

The Star's Africa News Service

MAPUTO — The Anglican Archbishop of Cape Town, Desmond Tutu, had a brief meeting here yesterday with President Joaquim Chissano of Mozambique. Archbishop Tutu told journalists they had discussed the situation in Mozambique and in South Africa, but gave no details.

Archbishop Tutu said he had not been surprised by the South African security police attempt to seize video cassettes of his visit to Mozambique.

He described the action as "typical" of South African Police behaviour.

Archbishop Tutu is expected to have another and longer meeting with President Chissano before returning to South Africa on Monday.

Referring to the controversy over the archbishop's remarks in Maputo last week about the use of violence in the Republic, a spokesman for the archbishop said he had said nothing then that he had not said before and that his remarks had been misinterpreted.

Archbishop Tutu has spent the past week visiting the provinces of Gaza and Inhambane.

From the towns of Xai Xai and Inhambane he made short trips by road to nearby churches to conduct services, accompanied always by a strong military escort.

Even the church services were conducted with troops guarding the churches. Two services were cut short after the military escort warned it would be dangerous to travel on the roads in darkness.

In the hospital at Inhambane he spoke to some victims of MNR attacks.

West German figure skater Cornelia Tesche (21), right, and Belgian colleague Dominique Morell (19) are the two skaters taking part in the Figure Skater of the Year competition to be held in Johannesburg this week. The event commemorates the 50th anniversary of the SA Ice Skating Association.
CONFESSION FROM ALLEGED BOMBER

Authorities in Maputo hold man with SA passport

MAPUTO — A South African passport-holder has been arrested in Mozambique and has admitted responsibility for a bomb blast in which two people were killed, the Mozambican security police, Snapp, have claimed.

The bomb blast occurred on March 13 in Matola about 15 km from Maputo. It had been intended for an ANC house in Maputo but had exploded prematurely.

The man has been identified as Mr. George Olympio Nunes Alerson, who is alleged to have told the Mozambican authorities that he was born in Angola.

When detained he was carrying a South African passport.

A statement issued by Snapp said that Mr. Alerson had confessed to being a member of a commando unit of the South African armed forces specializing in acts of sabotage, subversion and terrorism in neighbouring countries.

**Promise**

Mr. Alerson is alleged to have said that he joined the South African army in 1976 after fleeing from Angola into Namibia.

In 1980 he had joined a paratroop unit and in 1984 took part in a three-month operation inside Angolan territory in support of the Angolan rebel group Unita.

Snapp said that Mr. Alerson was called to Pretoria where he was placed in a special commando unit with a monthly salary of R800 with a promise of more money for any missions successfully carried out.

He had been infiltrated into Mozambique to place a bomb where an ANC member lived but had found difficulty in doing this.

He left the suitcase containing the bomb at the house of some acquaintances while he returned to South Africa to seek further instructions, but in his absence the bomb exploded killing two people in the house.

When Mr. Alerson re-entered Mozambique he was arrested and the Mozambican Security Police found on his person the plan of a Maputo apartment also inhabited by ANC members.

Alerson had told the Mozambican authorities that members of his group had been infiltrated by sea and used vehicles that had been driven over the land frontier.

**Denial on 'crackdown'**

POLICE yesterday denied there was a "crackdown" on "grey areas" in Mayfair or any other part of Johannesburg.

Lieutenant Pierre Leong, a policeWhats app officer for the Western Province, was reacting to reports that people in Mayfair, a suburb west of Johannesburg, had been asked by the police group to clear out to report to John Vorster Square, where details of who owned the holdings they were resident in were taken.
37 Mozambicans to be repatriated

Thirty-seven Mozambicans arrested at the Kaitelong squatter camp last week will be repatriated today, said an official of the Department of Home Affairs in Germiston.

The Mozambicans, who include 27 adults and 10 children, were among 69 people arrested at the camp by police.

The police public relations directorate in Pretoria confirmed the arrests last week.

The 27 adults have been kept in police custody while the children were kept at Van Ryn's Place of Safety in Apex near Benoni.

The spokesman said those repatriated would be escorted to Nelspruit where they would be issued with Mozambican documents.

He said repatriation was delayed because the aliens were escorted individually to the squatter camp to fetch their belongings.
Renamo raid: SA accused again

WASHINGTON — The United States has again brushed aside denials of South African involvement in a recent commando raid into Maputo, threatening to heighten a diplomatic storm over the issue.

The latest Reagan Administration allegations were made by its top policy-maker on Africa, Dr. Chester Crocker, who asserted that South Africa was still the "primary source" for aid to the Mozambican rebel group, Renamo.

RAID "INDEFENSIBLE"

Dr. Crocker said yesterday: "The May 29 South African raid in Maputo and the continuing South African threats against Mozambique are indefensible and contrary to Pretoria's own interests in promoting stability in the region and reduced openings for Soviet bloc influence."

Addressing a hearing on Mozambique by the Senate sub-committee on Africa he spoke of "clear evidence" of South Africa violating the Nkomati Accord.

Mozambique had complied with the accord, he said, mainly by expelling ANC guerrillas.

Recounting the State Department's scepticism about Renamo he said it was a myth that Renamo was a democratic alternative to the present Government there.

Dr. Crocker said there were credible reports of Renamo atrocities against civilians.

Transkei gears up against rabies

UMTATA — Licensing of dogs and cats in Transkei will begin again in July to try to prevent rabies spreading. Three people have died of rabies in Matatiele in a year — Sapa.

Exploding cylinder kills man

ZWELITSHA — Mr Sceo Ruse, 48, a senior official in the magistrate's offices in the township near King William's Town, was killed when a gas cylinder exploded at a braai. Mr Thame Qayiso was injured and treated in hospital — Sapa.

Gold Rush expected to ton R1.5m.
Diplomatic storm looms over Maputo incident

US dismisses SA raid denials

By Alan Dunn, The Star Bureau

WASHINGTON — The United States has again brushed aside denials of South African involvement in a recent commando raid into Maputo, threatening to heighten a diplomatic storm over the issue.

The latest Reagan administration allegations were made by its top policymaker on Africa, Dr Chester Crocker, who also asserted that South Africa was still the “primary source” of aid to the Mozambican rebel group, MNR.

His claims are sure to upset South African Government leaders after they personally issued assurances that they were responsible for neither the officials nor conditions to lengthen recently to pledge both publicly and privately that the SA Defence Force was not behind the Maputo military strike which killed three people.

South Africa has called for hard evidence of its complicity in the raid, but no “smoking gun” has yet emerged.

Dr Crocker said yesterday “The May 29 South African raid in Maputo and the continuing South African threats against Mozambique are both indefensible and contrary to Pretoria’s own interests in promoting accommodation with its neighbours, stability in the region and reduced openings for Soviet bloc influence.”

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Dr Crocker heaped praise on the Mozambican government, saying its positive momentum away from Soviet influence since 1983 had continued, even accelerated, under President Samora Machel’s successor, Mr Joaquim Chissano.

He said Mozambique was no longer a compliant client of the Soviet Union, it pursued a “courageous” course in foreign policy separating it from Moscow, still stuck to the Nkomati Accord, had broken from socialists, had a “far from perfect” human rights record but showed impressive positive trends, especially in the government’s relations with churches, and played a constructive role in southern Africa.

He said Mozambique had been a “moderating force”, a “steady and clear-headed” voice in the Frontline states.

“No country in southern Africa has worked more consistently than Mozambique with the United States to further the cause of peace and stability in southern Africa.”

Even South Africa, he noted, which had “converted MNR from a nuisance into a well-armed rebel group”, recognised the Mozambican government and dealt with the MNR clandestinely. This was significant, he added.

Both the United States and its allies were “clearly committed to a policy of encouraging Mozambique’s westward turn and eroding Soviet influence.”

Sithole and Renamo signed pact, according to document

From SIMON BARBER

WASHINGTON. — According to a document obtained by this correspondent, the Mozambican rebel movement, Renamo, and the Rev. Ndabaningi Sithole of Zimbabwe signed a pact last year to co-operate in the overthrow of the Mozambican and Zimbabwean governments.

Among Mr Sithole's signers was Mr Bruce Anderson, whose business card describes him as the director of Community Protection Services Pty Ltd in Johannesburg.

The pact was signed in a hotel room in Tyson's Corner, a Washington suburb, on August 17, 1986. The pact's authenticity was confirmed yesterday by Mr Tom Schaaf, head of the pro-Renamo Mozambique Information Office, who said he had been present for part of the meeting.

The first section of the document sets out agreed democratic principles by which Renamo and Mr Sithole's party, Zanu, would abide once they took power.

The second part reads: "Zanu undertakes to co-operate with Renamo in any ways that shall mutually be agreed upon by the two parties."

The pact was signed on behalf of Mr Sithole by Mr Anderson, Mr Chris Sokala, who is a Sithole aide, and a third individual whose signature is illegible.

Mr Sithole, who maintains a home in the Washington area, was not present, according to Mr Schaaf.

Signing for Renamo's president, Mr Afonso Dhlakama, were Mr Jorge Fonseca, described as the movement's foreign minister, Mr Luis Serapión, Renamo's US and Canadian representative, and another party, also illegible.

Soon after the signing, an associate of Mr Anderson, Mr Garth Barret, alleged by sources to have been a member of the Selous Scouts, wrote to Mr Sithole describing the climate in Zimbabwe for a possible attack on Mr Robert Mugabe's government.

A copy of this letter has also been obtained, giving the author's address as a post office box in Roosevelt Park, Johannesburg.

Dated August 31, 1986, the letter refers to a telephone conversation between Mr Sithole and Mr Barret on the subject of an unspecified operation then being planned against Mr Mugabe, referred to as "The Aim."
Testimony: Pik attacks Crocker

Political Correspondent

THE war of words between the US and South Africa hotted up last night as Foreign Minister Mr Pik Botha attacked testimony by a senior US official on Southern Africa as "unfactual", "one-sided" and "unsubstantiated".

Earlier this week, the US assistant secretary of state for African Affairs, Dr Chester Crocker, told the African sub-committee of the US Senate's foreign affairs committee that:

- The South African raid on Maputo on May 29, in which three were killed, and the Republic's threats against Mozambique were indefensible.
- Mozambique's neighbours support that country and are opposed to the destabilization attempts, which are mapped by South Africa.
- South Africa had turned Renamo from a group that just caused annoyance to a well-armed rebel organization. There was "credible evidence" that South Africa continued to be a reliable supplier of high-priority articles which Renamo has difficulty in obtaining.

Mr Botha hit back at Dr Crocker by asserting that nothing he had said in his testimony on US-Mozambique policy would improve the "critical living conditions" of the millions of people in Southern Africa or promote peace and stability in the region.

Dr Crocker had not given a factual overview of the events and developments in the region but had instead sketched his own preferred scenario which he had "coloured in with his own mixture of unsubstantiated allegations and a one-sided interpretation of developments in Southern Africa".

Mr Botha said that no evidence had been produced to back the allegation that South Africa continued to aid Renamo or was responsible for the May 29 raid.

Mr Botha said he had instructed South Africa's ambassador in Washington and its representative in Maputo to approach the two governments to establish why they continued to make these allegations.

Civilian targets

Mr Botha said Dr Crocker had said that Mozambique had removed certain ANC figures from its territory, but he had remained mum on the infiltration of "ANC terrorists" from Mozambique through Swaziland "to murder and maim innocent people."

In Mbabane, Mozambique's ambassador to Swaziland, Mr Daniel Magaia, yesterday delivered a bitter attack on the South African government's alleged support for the MNR rebels in Mozambique and accused South African commandos of also attacking civilian targets in Maputo.
Mozambique Anglicans may benefit from Tutu's release

Azeko, 27/6/87 (28)

Marxist Frelimo government puts out red carpet for

And talks to an injured victim in hospital

Wrote in possession of child

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Tutu lays wreaths at Maputo graves

MAPUTO.—Archbishop Desmond Tutu yesterday laid wreaths at the graves of black South Africans in Maputo, including those killed in South African raids.

He and his wife, Mrs Leah Tutu, visited Maputo's cemetery accompanied by Mozambican officials and South African exiles, including members of the African National Congress, a statement released by the archbishop's press aide here said.

He also laid a wreath at the graves of three Mozambicans killed in last month's raid in Maputo.

The Archbishop of Cape Town is on a pastoral visit to Mozambique in his capacity as Metropolitan of the Anglican Church in Southern Africa.

After the wreath-laying ceremony he held a separate meeting with the exiles and chatted and prayed with them.

Archbishop Tutu said he had visited the cemetery because "these are South Africans. They are our brothers and sisters and our children, and I am concerned for all South Africans. Those who have died are children of God and I must pray for them."

"No death leaves us cold."

Archbishop Tutu said his meeting with the exiles and visit to the graves was in accordance with Anglican Church policy, which required that the church should minister to all South Africans, whether in the country or in exile. — Sapa
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Call for military aid to M'bique

OSLO - Senior world politicians have called for military aid to M'bique.

They also urged a total air boycott of South Africa.

The Palme Commission on Disarmament and Security, formed after the murdered Swedish Prime Minister in 1986, issued a toughly worded statement at the end of a three-day meeting in Oslo, in which it said: "M'bique needs military assistance as well as economic aid. That can best be provided by forces from African states, but with countries outside Africa helping to fund such military support."

"One particularly effective way to isolate South Africa is to put into effect a total air boycott, including overflight and landing rights.

"We deplore the refusal of many European nations to impose an air boycott. They could and should do so immediately."

Members of the commission, which had met specifically to discuss South Africa, include Norwegian Prime Minister Mr Gro-Harlem Brundtland, former Polish Prime Minister Mr. Josef Cyranekiewiz, former US Secretary of State Mr Cyrus Vance and Mr David Owen, leader of Britain's Social Democratic Party (SDP).

"The international community has not risen to its responsibility (over South Africa)," Mr Brundtland told a news conference after the meeting. "The West is losing the battle for hearts and minds in South Africa." - Sapa-Reuters
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World call for arms aid to Mozambique

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Frelimo official uses Tutu meeting to slate Catholic leaders

The Star's Africa News Service

MAPUTO — The visit of the Anglican Archbishop Desmond Tutu to Mozambique has been used by a leading member of the Frelimo Party to indirectly launch a strong attack against the Mozambican Catholic hierarchy.

The criticism, made by Colonel Sergio Vieira, was accompanied by an attack in the government-owned newspaper Noticias against recent suggestions by the Catholic hierarchy that there should be negotiations between Frelimo and the Mozambique National Resistance (MNR) movement.

Colonel Vieira, former Security Minister and a Frelimo Central Committee member, was speaking during a weekend mass meeting in honour of Archbishop Tutu.

Colonel Vieira praised Archbishop Tutu’s stand against apartheid saying that “the Church of Christ has repeatedly given rise to this type of man with a thirst for justice.

“In all epochs faced with the compromises and betrayals inherent in class alliances made by various religious hierarchies, those who believe in the dignity of man made in the image and likeness of God, raise, in thought and in deed, the noble banner of revolt.”

REACTIONARY VOICES

Colonel Vieira then indirectly attacked the Catholic hierarchy saying that “there exist reactionary voices, fascist voices, voices opposed to the people.

“They are not voices representing races or churches, although the speakers may be of a particular colour or may even wear the rings of a bishop,” he added.

He described them as “anti-human and anti-Christian voices that advise people to capitulate to tyranny and to submit to racism.

“They are the voices that propose conciliation with the terrorism of the bandits,” Colonel Vieira said.

In a recent church newsletter, the Catholic Bishops of Mozambique called for negotiations between the government and the MNR.

At the weekend the daily Noticias carried a front page editorial titled “The apostles of treason” in which suggestions that the government should negotiate with the MNR were attacked.

Although no direct mention is made of the Catholic Bishops’ call for negotiations, Noticias said “the apostles of treason piously present themselves as the interpreters of the people’s suffering — omitting, however, to denounce those who are responsible for this suffering.”
Nkomati a dead letter?

Own Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG — Recent angry exchanges between Pretoria and Maputo threaten to turn the Nkomati Accord into a dead letter, according to the research director of the SA Institute of International Affairs, Mr André du Pisani.

And some political observers believe Pretoria’s policy decisions on Mozambique are quietly shifting from the Department of Foreign Affairs to the military and intelligence services.

The future of the three-year-old accord was thrown into sharp focus at the weekend by the Minister of Defence, General Magnus Malan, hinting at support for pro-Western movements in Southern Africa to check Soviet expansionism in the region.

This week, bilateral relations are expected to reach one of their trickiest passages with the release of the Margo Commission of Inquiry’s report into the aircraft crash that killed President Samora Machel last October.

Mr Du Pisani said General Malan’s statement had seriously eroded the terms of the accord “It is, for practical purposes, now dead.

‘Major policy-makers’

“Documents on the accord are lodged with Foreign Affairs but it’s the military, State Security Council and the National Intelligence Service that are now playing the major policy-makers on Mozambique.”

Foreign Affairs, however, made clear yesterday that General Malan’s statement should not be seen as a “move away from the Nkomati Accord.”

And the director of Pretoria University’s Institute for Strategic Studies, Mr Mike Hough, said the propaganda war only violated the spirit of the agreement.

“Despite the apparent failure of the accord, there are still no ANC bases in Maputo and nobody has conclusively proven that SA has launched cross-border raids into Mozambique since its signing three years ago,” he said.

In a strongly worded statement, the official Mozambique news agency AIM accused Pretoria yesterday of failing to respect the accord from the day it was signed, and continuing to support the Mozambique National Resistance Movement (MNR).

“It is likely that Malan will try to cut the Limpopo Valley off from Maputo. That’s been tried before in early 1983, but they failed then,” AIM said.
SOUTH Africa is not moving away from the Nkomati Accord following a weekend statement by the Minister of Defence, General Magnus Malan, that South Africa could consider helping pro-Western resistance movements in Africa.

This has been stated by a Department of Foreign Affairs spokesman following interpretations in some newspapers that General Malan's statement opened the way for possible South African help to the Mozambican resistance movement, Renamo.

In his statement General Malan said there were pro-Western groups that were confronted by Soviet expansion in Southern Africa but who did not have the ability to survive on their own.

Were such groups to ask for South African assistance it had to be considered "in principle".

Other Government sources pointed out today that the Minister had not firmly stated that such help would be given. They said his statement was mainly meant to counter a number of unsubstantiated allegations about South Africa that had recently been made in neighbouring states.

These included statements about the Machel air crash shortly before the Margo report was due.