

CITIZEN 14/3/84

# Cabora Bassa talks end in CT today

CAPE TOWN. — Talks between South Africa, Portugal and Mozambique on the future of the Cabora Bassa hydro-electric scheme began in Cape Town yesterday.

The Portuguese and Mozambican delegations arrived in Cape Town on Monday for bilateral talks which were resumed yesterday morning before the trilateral discussion started at the historic Groot Constantia estate yesterday afternoon.

Portugal, whose delegation is headed by the

Deputy Minister of Finance, Dr Antonio de Almeida, wants Mozambique to shoulder a greater portion of the financial millstone around the former colonial power's neck since its departure from Mozambique.

Mozambique in turn is looking for increased tariffs from the scheme's only viable customer, South Africa.

The Mozambicans, led

by their Minister of Mineral and Energy Affairs, Mr Antonio Branco, say the present tariff does not cover the running costs of the scheme.

South Africa, whose negotiating team is headed by the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Louis Nel, needs the supply stabilised, a situation which will be directly affected by the Nkomati Accord, due to be signed

by South Africa's Prime Minister, Mr P.W. Botha, and President Samora Machel of Mozambique on Friday.

The accord makes provision for tightening the reins on the Mozambican resistance movement, which has been mainly responsible for sabotaging the Cabora Bassa scheme.

The talks are due to end today. — Sapa.