

Maputo wants 'access' to

MiG pilot

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MAPUTO — The Maputo Government has asked South Africa for "access" to the Mozambique air force pilot who flew a MiG 17 jet fighter into South Africa and asked for political asylum.

Mozambique has also asked for the return of the aircraft, now at the

South African Air Force base at Hoedspruit in the eastern Transvaal.

An official announcement in Maputo said the Mozambique authorities had established some of the reasons why the pilot, Lieutenant Francisco Bomba, flew into South Africa.

The announcement did not elaborate, but said

that investigations into the incident were continuing.

It said the commander of the Mozambique Air Force had confirmed that the South African authorities had been asked to return the MiG 17.

The outdated MiG 17 is considered to be of no use and little interest to the SAAF, who would

have no objection to it being returned. But it would probably have to be partly dismantled and then flown back, unless arrangements could be made for a Mozambican pilot to take over the plane at a civil airport without security restrictions.