Bomba copes with the Press barrage

By JOUBERT MALHERBE
Pretoria Bureau

LIEUTENANT A F Bomba told Pressmen at the weekend his relatives in Mozambique would be harmed because of his defection. "I took the decision on my own," he said.

He would like to further his studies in a scientific field in South Africa and he would only be prepared to fly for the Mozambican Air Force again after there had been a change of government in that country.

Asked whether he despised the Frelimo Government enough to take up arms against it, he would only say: "The fact that I defected proves that I have something against the government."

He said there was widespread dissatisfaction among Mozambicans, but added that the dissidents lacked leadership.

He could not be that leader because the authorities were watching his movements too closely.

Lt Bomba said he hoped his defection would inspire people of like mind who were still in Mozambique to do the same.

He also said:
- There was not enough food in Mozambique — the people's staple diet was President Machel's speeches;
- The Frelimo Government forced him to leave school in 1977 and join the air force;
- Russia's military role in Mozambique was limited to an advisory capacity;
- The Frelimo Government forced him to relinquish his Catholic religion but that he has since adopted it again;
- After the South African Defence Force's raid on Matola Mozambicans have been preparing a massive civilian defensive action — to avert similar attacks in the future;
- The average Mozambican did not view South Africa as a threat, and

- The Mozambican resistance movement had the strongest support in Beira.

Lt Bomba could not say why colleagues in Mozambique had dubbed him with the nickname "The Phenomenon".

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