

US expresses regret at recent SA actions

Pretoria News Foreign Service

WASHINGTON. — The United States has expressed regret at the South African Government's actions this week against Mozambique and the United Democratic Front.

State Department spokesman Mr Peter Martinez said here that the US was deeply concerned by the deterioration of relations between South Africa and Mozambique.

"It is critically important at this time that the two governments avoid escalating confrontation and resume the dialogue to which they committed themselves in the Nkomati Accord," he said.

Referring to the SA Government's decision to declare the UDF an affected organisation barred from receiving funds from abroad, the State Department spokesman said it was a regrettable decision

"and a further infringement on the political rights of peaceful opponents of apartheid in South Africa."

From London it is reported South Africa was warned yesterday that the restriction of the UDF would merely strengthen the resolve of anti-government forces and lead to stronger pressure for change.

The new Independent said in its editorial that the move against the UDF "makes no more sense than previous attempts to ban black opposition groups".

The Guardian says the restrictions — and the expulsion of migrant workers from Mozambique — "are reminders of Pretoria's formidable advantages in a struggle for power which has already directly embroiled the entire subcontinent."

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