

# Mozambique at war

**T**HE hopes once vested in the Nkomati Accord have faded alarmingly. The spectre grows not only of the intensification of Mozambique's civil strife but also of neighbouring parties becoming embroiled.

South Africa has repeatedly been accused of aiding the MNR; Pretoria suspects Frelimo complicity with the ANC; the frontline states are siding with President Machel in his confrontation with Malawi over purported assistance to the MNR; the rebel movement, by Maputo's own admission, appears to be making headway in its assault on Frelimo, and all the while Mozambican refugees are pouring into neighbouring territories.

The situation bodes ill not only for Mozambique but for peace and stability in the region. It is a conflict which all outside parties, South Africa included, would do well to keep out of. If anything, quiet diplomacy rather than sabre-rattling rhetoric, armed adventurism and retaliatory action is needed.