

Clashes at Wits memorial

POLICE and students clashed briefly at the University of the Witwatersrand yesterday after a memorial service in the Great Hall for Mozambique President Samora Machel.

According to eyewitnesses, 40 to 50 riot police arrived at the Jorissen Street entrance to Wits as the service ended and students streamed into the area. As police moved onto campus, witnesses said, students retreated back towards the centre of campus; and when police retreated, students moved towards Jorissen Street.

As the police moved onto campus a third time, witnesses said, they released three teargas canisters close

to the Senate House wall.

"The first and second floors of Senate House were uninhabitable for quite a while," said one witness, as teargas filled offices and lecture halls.

The memorial service, which filled the Great Hall to capacity, was organised by the Black Students Society. Speakers were UDF executives Albertina Sisulu and the Rev Frank Chikane and Aubrey Mokoena of the Release Mandela Committee.

Police could not be reached for comment.