

## B. AFRICA

### S African Reported Offer to Mediate Between Mozambique and MNR

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Excerpts from dispatch datelined Johannesburg, 27th October:

South Africa has indicated that it is prepared to act as "peacemaker" in Mozambique between the Frelimo government and the Mozambique National Resistance (MNR) bandits, following the tragic death of President Samora Machel on 19th October. Heads of the white-ruled South African Department of Foreign Affairs, including the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Pik (Roelof) Botha, met in Pretoria all day yesterday to discuss this proposal, according to reports in Johannesburg today.

This new development is, however, being viewed with suspicion particularly in view of mounting criticism that South Africa was responsible for the aircraft crash in which the late Mozambican leader was killed. As tension mounts in southern Africa following the death of President Machel, the South African Minister of Defence, Magnus Malan, warned the countries of southern Africa that any further suggestions that South Africa was responsible for the death of President Machel would have "a negative effect" on relations in the sub-region.

Observers said that South Africa is not in a position to act as "peacemaker" in Mozambique because of the country's possible involvement in the death of the Mozambican leader as well as Pretoria's support for the MNR bandits fighting the Frelimo government in a bid to topple it. South African mediation to get Frelimo and the MNR leaders at the discussion table failed earlier and there is no doubt that it would be unsuccessful this time. Everybody knows that Pretoria is aiding and supporting the MNR's war against the Mozambican government as part of South Africa's "total strategy" in the sub-region. . .

South Africa's policy of "total strategy" against the countries of the SADCC [Southern African Development Co-ordination Conference] is clearly aimed at keeping the economic and political power in Pretoria. The objective is to maintain an economic dependence that will be economically lucrative and politically destabilising with the help of surrogate terrorist organisations like the MNR and UNITA in Angola. For the destruction of the alternative transport routes in southern Africa, Pretoria is using the MNR and UNITA. Of the regional links running east, west and south it is more than coincidence that the only one not to be sabotaged since 1980 is that which runs from Zambia through Zimbabwe to the South African ports of Durban, Port Elizabeth, East London and Cape Town. . .

Against this background and with Pretoria's total strategy in mind, white-ruled South Africa's preparedness to act as peace-maker in Mozambique seems a bit far fetched. The question to be asked is: Will South Africa allow peace in Mozambique at the cost of losing control of the very vital outlets through the Mozambican ports of Beira, Nacala and Maputo?