

SA answerable for Machel's death—Ramphal

LAGOS.

COMMONWEALTH Secretary-General Shridath Ramphal on Friday concluded talks here with Nigerian officials on the need to increase aid for Southern African countries.

State House sources said Mr Ramphal told Nigerian leader General Ibrahim Babangida in a meeting that the Frontline States need more support from Nigeria to survive South Africa's destabilisation policies.

Mr Ramphal singled out Mozambique as in need of the most support.

The Nigerian leader pledged his government's readiness to do "everything possible" to help Mozambique.

However, Mr Ramphal warned that economic

assistance for southern African states was not enough. He said there was a need to improve the security situation in the region.

At a brief Press conference later, the Commonwealth Secretary-General described the death of Mozambican President Cde Samora Machel, as "a product of Pretoria's destabilisation policies".

"There is a great deal Pretoria has to account for," Mr Ramphal charged.

On his arrival here on Thursday, Mr Ramphal told journalists that any probe into Cde Machel's death would only be acceptable to the Commonwealth if it involved Mozambique and the Soviet Union. — ZIANA-IPS.