

## **Continuing Economic Ties**

The South African Prime Minister, Mr. Vorster, told a meeting of his constituents on November 5th that he had received guarantees from Mozambique's Frelimo-led Provisional Government that economic ties between the two countries would be maintained and that Mozambique would not be used as a base for guerrilla attacks.

"We have asked that certain agreements between Mozambique and our country be honoured because it was in South Africa's interest that the ports of Lourenco Marques and Beira remain open and the railways carry traffic. It is also in South Africa's interest that the Mozambique labour agreement (governing Black labour for gold mines) be honoured and the Cabora Bassa power scheme be successfully completed.

"I am glad to be able to tell you that in spite of certain difficulties these agreements will reasonably be honoured," Mr. Vorster said. He added that certain guarantees had been given by the Mozambique Government but did not elaborate.

Mr. Vorster said it was in Mozambique's interest to maintain good relations with South Africa because harbour revenue, mine labour and the sale of power will "determine whether Mozambique is viable". Nearly 80% of Mozambique's economy has been dependent on South African links, he said.

The Prime Minister said he had also asked and received guarantees from the Mozambique administration that the country would not be used as a base for guerrilla attacks against South Africa. (DN 7/11)

## **Recruitment in Rhodesia**

The Rhodesian Government has agreed in principle to allow South African mines to

recruit local African labour. A statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said that the Rhodesian Government and the South African authorities were discussing plans for a recruiting programme which would produce satisfactory results while at the same time safeguarding the labour supply to Rhodesian primary industries. (R. Salisbury 5/11)

Apart from raising the possibility of political difficulties the labour move is considered surprising in the light of frequent Rhodesian Government claims that there is no real black unemployment in Rhodesia and the statements by farmers that they are finding it impossible to obtain enough workers. (FT 5/11)

The *Rhodesia Herald* says that the announcement has "raised a hornets' nest" for apparently neither the employers nor the trade unions were consulted. The newspaper points out that the mines of Rhodesia and South Africa depend to a great extent on foreign labour. "South Africa's traditional reservoirs are no longer assured, and it would seem that she has now turned for help to the country she has been helping in other ways for so long. If that be so, and despite our reservations about the desirability of indentured labour, Rhodesia cannot ignore the appeal. But South Africa cannot expect us to injure our own vital industry in response. Some equitable arrangements must be worked out. . . ." (RH 7/11)