

SOUTH AFRICA

Terrorism – time for tougher action has arrived



South Africa is having to adjust to a new dimension in the terrorist threat and in its relations with countries harbouring terrorists. The opening up of an operational area — handing over control of law and order to the military — in northern Zululand spells tougher action, across borders if necessary, to deal with a

situation that was worsening fast.

Those who operate across South Africa's borders are being warned in advance," Prime Minister P W Botha said last week in response to an attack on a black trading store near the Mozambique border.

The raid, in which three blacks were assaulted, was conducted by ANC terrorists and Mozambique troops, according to Brigadier-General Charles Lloyd. It followed the discovery of several large caches of arms and ammunition in northern

Natal. Three days later security police captured two Angolan-trained terrorists near Durban and found another consignment of communist-manufactured weapons.

South Africa has rejected assurances from the Mozambique government that it has taken action against terrorists operating from its territory. A sharply worded note held Mozambique fully responsible for their presence and reserved South Africa's right to take any necessary steps, anywhere, to "protect South African life and property". The terrorist activities "amount to acts of aggression", it states.

The discovery of the arms was a major breakthrough against urban terrorism.