

February 20

South Africa '80 warns Maputo

By Quentin Peel
in Johannesburg

F.T.

THE SOUTH AFRICAN Government yesterday accused neighbouring Mozambique of allowing nationalist guerrillas to operate from its territory, and warned that it would consider taking retaliatory action.

As the South African Defence Force was reported to have assumed control over an area of northern Natal near the Mozambique border, where large arms caches were found last week, the Department of Foreign Affairs issued a strongly worded statement which it had sent to the Mozambique government.

Pretoria claimed to have conclusive evidence of "terrorists planning subversion in South Africa" being harboured in Mozambique. It warned that it reserved the right to take whatever steps it viewed necessary