

MOZAMBIQUE AND THE MNR

SA held delicate parallel talks yesterday in Pretoria with a Mozambique government delegation and representatives of the MNR. The discussions, after similar talks last month, took place against a background of mounting concern in Mozambique over the MNR's increased activity, seen as a serious threat to the Nkomati Accord signed by Mozambique and SA on March 16 ... In a statement issued in Pretoria, the Southern African Catholic Bishop's Conference said atrocities committed by the MNR had risen to 'a horrific level' and Mozambicans seeking refuge across the border were being hounded down by SA and some tribal homeland administrations and sent back to Mozambique.

After interviewing some of the refugees, the SACBC alleged that MNR guerrillas plundered villages, cut off old people's heads, and killed the children of peasants who refused to cooperate. Children were often boiled alive, it claimed. Women were raped and used as porters, and young men forcibly conscripted into the guerrilla forces.

General Jacinto Veloso, Mozambique's Minister for Economics in the presidency, was quoted by the Mozambican News Agency before leaving Maputo for Pretoria as saying: 'Six months after the Nkomati accord there have still been no practical results. The violence continues and seriously endangers the accord'. Mr Pik Botha, SA Foreign Minister, said his talks with General Veloso's delegation concerned 'security and economic co-operation', but gave no further details ...

Times (UK) 29.9.84