

... Regular SAAF flights to the MNR bush headquarters at Gorongosa, an SA Navy submarine mission to pick up a rebel leader from the Mozambique coast, and secret visits by the former Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Louis Nel, to the guerrilla's main base, were confirmed by Mr Botha and the Minister of Defence, Gen Magnus Malan, last night. However, they rejected Mozambique's charges that these were violations of the Nkomati Accord. SA and the SADF had at all times upheld the Accord, they said. They would be explaining to Mozambique today that humanitarian aid, the SAAF flights, the submarine mission and Mr Nel's visits had all been undertaken in the cause of bringing the two sides in the Mozambique civil war together ...

The evidence that SA had helped the MNR came to light when a joint attack force from Mozambique and Zimbabwe recently overran the rebel's Gorongosa headquarters. Among documents captured was a SA-printed diary kept by a Mr J Vaz which appeared to have been the rebels' journal. In it ... were entered details and dates of equipment supplies made by the SADF, including weapons and ammunition, blankets, radios and compasses. Records were kept of supply drops, movements of SAAF Dakota and C-130 aircraft at Gorongosa airfield, and of meetings between the MNR and SA officials ... Gen Malan explained last night that regular flights in and out of Mozambique had been necessary to bring rebels to SA for ceasefire negotiations. Radios had been supplied for the same purpose ... *The Star* 19.9.85