

S African Border Area with Mozambique Declared "Restricted Air Space"

SAPA in English (i) 1645 and (ii) 1725 gmt 20 Mar 85

(i) Text of dispatch datelined Johannesburg, 20th March:

A measure to prevent support reaching Mozambican rebels from South African territory, and at the same time curb cross-border smuggling activities, was announced from Pretoria tonight.

An SADF spokesman said the Minister of Defence, General Magnus Malan, had declared the South Africa/Mozambique border area in the eastern Transvaal a special restricted air space. The restricted air space stretches from the Limpopo in the north [to the border] of Swaziland in the south, the spokesman said.

The spokesman said measure was to curtail smuggling across the border, and to prevent private interests from giving any logistic support to rebel movements in Mozambique. All possible technological aids were being used to ensure effectivity [sic].

(ii) Text of further dispatch - giving coordinates of restricted area:

In a separate statement, the SAAF chief, Lt-Gen Denis Earp, said the restriction meant pilots would need official permission to fly in the designated zone. General Earp's statement said:

The existing restricted area FAR 78 stretching from the Limpopo river in the north to the southern border of the Kruger National Park is augmented by an area promulgated in terms of Act 79 (i) (A) of the Defence Act as a special restricted area. The area concerned is encompassed by the boundaries set out below:

A From Ressano Garcia-point 25.26 South 31.59 East, southwards with the RSA/Mozambique border to the Swaziland border.

B Thence westward with the RSA/Swaziland borders to a point 25.43 South 31.25 East in the Jeppes Reef area.

C Thence northwards in a straight line to Hectorspruit-point 25.26 South 31.41 East.

D Thence eastwards along the railway line to the Ressano Garcia-point 25.26 South 31.59 East.

Authorisation to enter the restricted area, FAR 78, extending over the Kruger National Park, as well as for the special restricted area, can be obtained from Air Force Headquarters. The telephone numbers are (012) 269941 Ext 237 and (012) 3232795.

All aircraft obtaining authorisation or aircraft operating in the vicinity of these specific areas are requested to establish radio contact with the Lowfeld airspace control sector on frequency 119.0 MHz, General Earp's statement said.