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Pretoria pact with Maputo 'a failure'

By Christopher Munnion
in Johannesburg

MOZAMBIQUE is under increasing pressure from other African leaders and from within the ruling Frelimo party to abrogate the Nkomati accord of friendship and co-operation with South Africa.

According to diplomatic sources, President Samora Machel has told presidents of the so-called Front Line States of Africa that he accepts the Nkomati agreement, signed a year ago, is a failure.

Mr Machel gave details of alleged South African violations of the agreement at a summit meeting of the Front Line leaders in Lusaka last week.

An indication of disillusionment with the Nkomati agreement from within the Frelimo party came from an analysis published by the official Mozambique news agency this week.

Whatever gains the agreement had achieved were "dwarfed by the continuing terrorist violence of Renamo bandits" the analysis said.

Pretoria's attempts at peace-making were seen as a ruse "to pull the wool over the eyes of the international community by creating the false image of impending political agreement."