

RSA - Mozambique transport co-operation said to be "good" (Text) Johannesburg, 17th October: Co-operation between the South African Transport Services (SATS) and the Mozambican railways remained good despite escalating tension between the governments of the two countries, a SATS spokesman said today. "There has been no breakdown between SATS and its counterpart in Mozambique. For us its business as usual", Mr Arie Oberholzer, public relations officer for SATS, said. He was responding to press reports quoting a senior Mozambican transport official as saying that relations between the transport authorities of each country had never been better. Dr Ilidio Diniz, Mozambique's Director of Ports and Railways, was quoted in newspaper reports as saying that the Maputo harbour has expanded its capacity to handle citrus, coal, sugar, metal and asbestos products. The reports said he told businessmen at a conference in Nelspruit that the amount of fruit exported through Maputo had increased significantly this year and urged them to make more use of the port. Mr Oberholzer declined to comment on the extent of exports carried to Mozambique from South Africa by rail. (SAPA in English 1427 gmt 17 Oct 86)

(Text) The Director of Harbours and Railways in Mozambique, Dr Ilidio Diniz, says about eight trains a day are using the railway line between Komatipoort and Maputo and this volume of traffic is expected to be doubled in the near future by allowing trains to run at night. Dr Diniz says his department has a commitment to exporters using Maputo harbour to repair the railway line as quickly as possible whenever it was damaged. Dr Diniz told a seminar at Nelspruit that his department was capable for [as heard] repairing the line within hours, compared with more than 20 days it had taken to repair in the past. (Johannesburg home service in English 1600 gmt 17 Oct 86)