

SA 'itching to attack Mozambique'

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HARARE — South Africa is seeking justification for direct military intervention in Mozambique and to bypass the N'komati Accord, the President of Mozambique, Cde Joaquim Chissano, said in Harare yesterday shortly before he left.

Addressing a Press conference at the end of his four-day state visit to Zimbabwe, the Mozambican leader said that the N'komati Accord signed between Maputo and Pretoria in 1984 was still in existence and his country

would continue insisting that the apartheid regime comply with its provisions.

The accord stipulates that the two countries should not allow their territories to be used for military purposes against the other. Mozambique has so far kept her part of the bargain while Pretoria has not.

President Chissano said: "In fact South Africa is getting into some difficulties in helping the bandits because she has to dodge the N'komati Accord, she has to at the same time appear to be complying with it while helping the bandits.

"Today what South Africa

is trying to do is to find some justification to intervene directly and the question of the ANC presence in Mozambique has been advanced in order to by-pass the N'komati Accord."

Cde Chissano said that Mozambique had frustrated the apartheid regime's latest attempt to provide logistical support for the bandits from the sea.

"They had a plan to do so and, in the province of Zambezia, the bandits had wanted to occupy some points along the coast to receive new equipment and ammunition."

Asked whether he would not consider talking to MNR

bandit leaders in Mozambique, he said he knew of no MNR bandit leaders based in Mozambique.

The Mozambican President said that his country would co-operate with Malawi on the basis of the newly-signed agreement between the two countries. "Let me not tell the bandits now what we are going to do."

He said all the Frontline States had agreed that priority in the struggle against destabilisation would be given to Mozambique and each country would contribute according to what it could do.

Cde Chissano said that so far it had been difficult for Angola, Botswana and Zambia to get involved in the fight itself because of South African acts of destabilisation in those countries.

"But all of them are helping according to their potential," he said.

Cde Chissano said that his country was receiving a lot of assistance from countries outside Africa, including the socialist countries without whose help "we would not be able to fight this war against the bandits", he said. — **Own Corr.**