

'SA LOOKING FOR EXCUSE TO ATTACK MOZAMBIQUE'

Political Editor

SOUTH AFRICA is seeking justification for direct military intervention in Mozambique and to by-pass the Nkomati Accord, President Joaquim Chissano of Mozambique said in Harare yesterday shortly before he left for Angola.

Addressing a Press conference at the end of his four-day state visit to Zimbabwe, Cde Chissano said the Nkomati 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 each 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 Nkomati Accord. She has at the same time to appear to be complying with it while helping the bandits.

"Today what South Africa is trying to do is

to find some justification in order to intervene directly and the question of the ANC presence in Mozambique has been advanced in order to by-pass the Nkomati Accord." He said 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 Zambezi, 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.

"I have difficulties in finding out where the leadership of the bandits in Mozambique would be, because all their instructions, all the political statements and all their directives have emanated

We stick to Nkomati Accord, says Chissano

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from either Pretoria or Portugal."

President Chissano 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.

Cde Chissano said 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 capabilities."

Asked whether he would consider accepting Nigerian troops to help eliminate the bandits, he said: "So far we think the efforts being made by the Mozambican citizens and the other Frontline States are sufficient, because what is at stake is not the absence of armed forces, but lack of equipment".

"Nigeria has always been ready to help other countries with troops and if we need troops from elsewhere we will approach Nigeria without

any difficulty."

Turning to economic issues, Cde Chissano said that although his country was negotiating with the World Bank and International Monetary Fund, Mozambique would not wait on the outcome of the negotiations before drawing up the country's rehabilitation programme.

"But we hope that our programme of rehabilitation is clear and that the World Bank and the IMF may decide to contribute."

Chissano said his country was receiving a lot of assistance from countries outside Africa including socialist states.

He said people tended to associate only Cuba with militaristic positions. But for Mozambique, Cuba was providing assistance, first in education, and also in health, agriculture, industry and planning.

Very important assistance was also coming from the Scandinavian countries as well as Britain.

Cde Chissano hoped that international efforts to assist Mozambique would be expanded. The UN Secretary General Dr De Cuellar had called for a donor conference in Geneva on March 24 this year to raise US\$200 million to help do away with hunger, misery, the consequences of natural calamities, bandits and terrorism.

He also disclosed that because of the interest the Commonwealth countries had shown for Mozambique, his country was studying ways by which it could have some status for attending Commonwealth conferences.

On his state visit to Zimbabwe, Cde Chissano was accompanied by his wife, Cde Marcelina, Minister of Defence, Cde Alberto Chipande; Minister of Foreign Affairs, Cde Pascoal Mocumbi, Minister of Finance, Cde Abdul Magid Osman and deputy secretary of Frelimo's Central Committee, Cde Jose Luis Cabaco.