

Pretoria, Maputo agree to reactivate security pact

SOUTH AFRICAN diplomatic and military officers meeting in Maputo this week have agreed to reactivate their security pact.

The meeting had been prefigured by earlier talks between Mozambican and South African envoys, and there have been other hints of improved relations (*SouthScan* Vol.2 No.35).

The main topic in this week's talks was the reactivation of the joint security commission established under the Nkomati accord and defunct since late 1985.

South Africa has insisted that it is no longer the quartermaster for the Mozambique National Resistance rebels, and the Mozambicans continue to insist that it is.

The US, according to testimony by US Africa envoy Chester Crocker to a senate foreign relations panel last June, believes that South Africa operates a twin-track policy, keeping the MNR active in order to keep the government in Maputo weak.

Presidential contender Jesse Jackson said on Wednesday he had consulted with the US state department three weeks ago and called South Africa an accomplice to massacres in Mozambique through its aid to the MNR.

There has been evidence of the maintenance of supplies to the MNR up to last year at least. According to recent research by Christian Aid, one of the aid agencies active in Mozambique:

(*a parachute drop of supplies was recorded in Inhambane province in May 1987;

*captured prisoners have given accounts of drops by night or directly by plane or helicopter;

*the size and quantity of the arsenals captured could only come from a large source in the region, in the view of a senior Zimbabwe official;

*an unidentified submarine was detected in Mozambique waters in July last year (*Mozambique: Caught in the Trap*, by Derrick Knight. Christian Aid, London).

The MNR has claimed that all its arms are captured from government forces.

Last week a right wing US supporter of the MNR, a Louisiana businessman, told the *New York Times* that members of the Mozambique Research Centre, which lobbies in Washington for the MNR, had taken knives, walkie-talkies and other supplies to the rebels.

He also said he had given up to \$75,000 to the MNR over the past two years and had helped pay for its Washington office.