

Botha meets Chissano at Cahora Bassa

SONGO (Mozambique).

MOZAMBICAN President Joaquim Chissano and South African President P. W. Botha met for the first time yesterday in the town of Songo, near the Cahora Bassa Dam, in the north-western Mozambican province of Tete.

Cde Chissano received Mr Botha at about 10.45 am at the small airport in Songo. Mr Botha was accompanied by his Defence Minister, Gen. Magnus Malan, and Foreign Minister, Roelof "Pik" Botha.

Cahora Bassa is one of Africa's biggest development projects, bigger than Egypt's Aswan Dam. It was built while Mozambique was still a Portuguese colony to provide cheap electricity for apartheid South Africa.

It was Mr Botha's first public meeting

with a Frontline State leader since he and Cde Chissano's predecessor, President Samora Machel, signed a non-aggression pact at Nkomati on the Mozambique-South Africa border in 1984.

Reviving that treaty, which South Africa has systematically broken, is expected to be one of the main topics of discussion between the two leaders.

Cde Chissano led a delegation which included Transport Minister Armando Guebuza and Co-operation Minister Jacinto Veloso. Also present were commander of the army, Lieutenant-General Tobias Dai and the commander of the Mozambique's frontier guard, Major-General Domingos Fondo.

Tete province, where the two leaders are meeting, is badly affected by the ban-

ditry being waged by the MNR.

South Africa has tried to deny it continues to back the bandits who strike against strategic economic targets in Mozambique, including the 1 400 km high tension line from Cahora Bassa to the South African border.

Because of these sabotage attacks, the dam has never supplied power regularly since it was completed in 1979, four years after Mozambique gained independence from Portugal.

The summit meeting has been convened to ratify an agreement reached in May to repair the power line and resume electricity sales to South Africa next year. But officials hope the meeting will mark an overall improvement in relations between

the two neighbours. H. 13/9/88

The two presidents visited the dam, and then talks between the two delegations started shortly after midday.

● A group of prominent South African Afrikaners is to hold talks with key members of the African National Congress and senior Soviet officials in Federal Germany next month, a report from Nairobi said yesterday.

The South African Press revealed on Sunday that a group of 18, mainly Afrikaner opposition politicians and academics, will attend a six-day conference in West Germany from October 23 to 29 under the auspices of the Freiderich Nauman Foundation in Munich. — Ziana-AIM-Pana-Xinhua.