

Maputo and Pretoria set to revive Nkomati accord

BY ANTHONY ROBINSON IN JOHANNESBURG

SOUTH AFRICA and Mozambique appear to be on the brink of a new top-level effort to breathe new life into the moribund Nkomati accord of March 1984. This follows a visit to Cape Town by Mr Jacinto Veloso, the Mozambican Minister for International Co-operation with a message from President Joaquim Chissano suggesting a meeting with President P.W. Botha.

The proposed meeting, the first since Mr Chissano became president after the death of the late President Samora Machel in an air crash on South African soil in October 1986, follows years of disillusionment and mutual recrimination.

The Nkomati accord provided for the expulsion of African

National Congress cadres from Mozambique in return for an undertaking from Pretoria to end its clandestine support for rebels.

Instead the civil war intensified. South Africa was accused of stepping up its clandestine support for the MNR while Pretoria accuses Maputo of still permitting the ANC to infiltrate into South Africa through neighbouring Swaziland.

The resumption of negotiations to re-activate the Cabora Bassa hydro-electric scheme marked the first stage of rapprochement six months ago. But the attempted murder of ANC veteran Albie Sachs by a car bomb earlier this month set relations back again.