

# Warning of Soviet arms build-up on borders

Pretoria Correspondent

The South African Air Force must keep up with the tremendous increase in sophisticated military hardware, including about 200 MiG fighters in neighbouring countries, says the Chief of the Air Force, Lieutenant-General Mike Muller.

Among the fighters are about 100 sophisticated MiG-21 jets, medium and short-range missile systems and anti-aircraft guns, military correspondents were told recently during a meeting chaired by Lieutenant-General Muller.

## RADAR

In southern Angola between 60 and 70 radar systems have been deployed, while Mozambique's radar umbrella against high flying aircraft reaches deep into the Eastern Transvaal and northern Natal.

Recently Sam-8 ground-to-air medium-range missiles were added to the arsenals of certain neighbouring states, supplementing the Sam-3s deployed around area like Maputo in Mozambique and Lubango in Angola.

This was part of the growing arms build-up on South Africa's borders over the past three to five years.

## SOVIETS

The meeting was told that Southern Africa is the only region, besides the Middle East, where the Sam-8 system has been deployed — an indication of the importance which the Soviets placed on getting control of Southern Africa.

Besides the ground-to-air missile systems, neighbouring states have been saturated with anti-aircraft guns, including the ZSU-23/4 Shilka radar-guided guns.

These are highly effective over short distances.

It was expected that this air-offensive preparation will be extended further and it was obvious that the Defence Force and in particular the SAAF would have to keep in step to counter the greater threat, reporters were told.