

Soviet Minister makes secret SA stopover

CAPE TOWN — Talks have been held in South Africa between Deputy Soviet Foreign Minister Mr Anatoly Adamishin and senior South African officials on relations between the two countries.

The talks, which began in secrecy in Mozambique three weeks ago, covered a wide range of topics ranging from present peace initiatives to the Soviet attitude towards South Africa.

Though no official confirmation of the latest discussions could be obtained, Government and foreign diplomatic sources said Mr Adamishin had first talks with Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr Pik Botha three weeks ago. The resulting visit to this country was the first time a senior Soviet official had come to South Africa since diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union were broken off in the 1950s.

However on his return to Moscow Mr Adamishin emphasised his country would not restore diplomatic ties with South Africa while Pretoria continued with its policy of apartheid.

In the talks in Mozambique, held at the Soviet Embassy, Mr Adamishin apparently spelt out the bottom line for improved relations between South Africa and the Soviet Union.

This included the re-

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lease of African National Congress leader Nelson Mandela and more evidence that South Africa was prepared to move towards a nonracial society.

Mr Adamishin told Mr Botha that the Soviet Union had been encouraged by recent developments in South Africa.

It is understood he also told Mr Botha that the Soviets were opposed to the principle of sanctions as a diplomatic weapon.

South African sources said there could be enormous benefits from dealing with the Soviets, including easing the sanctions campaign and pressure being put on the ANC to halt its armed struggle.

EARLIER TALKS

Mr Botha had previously had brief talks with Mr Adamishin while in Congo Brazzaville and New York for the Angola-Namibia peace negotiations.

Mr Botha met him again in Mozambique and invited him to visit South Africa so that he could see it was not a "third-rate Third World country".

The invitation was accepted. Mr Adamishin, with senior staff members, flew to Jan Smuts Airport and they were given a helicopter inspection of the Witwatersrand, accompanied by a South African ministerial representative.

The Soviets have been showing an increasing interest in taking part in resolving the problems facing South Africa, and Government spokesmen have been encouraged by what they say is a definite change in attitude.

Although they say the Soviets are Johnny-come-latelies in the Angola peace process, and are trying to get some of the credit, they have recently conceded that the Soviets could play a constructive role.

Mr Botha met Mr Adamishin again at Mount

Etjo in Namibia. Mr Adamishin stayed over in Namibia to decide, among other things, on a special interests office in the territory.

Mr Adamishin is expected to come to South Africa officially later this month when the joint commission of Angola, South Africa and Cuba meets in Cape Town.

● On his return to Moscow Mr Adamishin said his country would not restore diplomatic ties with South Africa while Pretoria continued with its policy of apartheid.

Associated Press reports that Mr Adamishin told a news briefing that apartheid prevented the ties.

Conditions for restoring diplomatic relations, severed in 1956, were simple, Mr Adamishin said: "The elimination of apartheid".

He said: "The Soviet Union has some contacts with South African officials. It would be difficult to conduct deliberations of the Joint Commission on Namibia without them."

He said: "We understand that in South Africa there are forces that are uneasy about apartheid and understand that without doing away with apartheid, South Africa will not reach world economic development."

"We see some positive aspects and we work toward strengthening such aspects."

Mr Yuri Yukalov, head of the Foreign Ministry's Africa department, said in an interview with *Moscow News* that the possibility of restoring ties with Pretoria under the existing regime was "ruled out completely".

DENIAL

He denied that the Soviet Union supported a violent overthrow of the Pretoria government through its backing of the exiled African National Congress.