

# Overseas students in USSR unrest **THE**

BY VERA RICH

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Mozambiquan students in the Soviet Union are suffering serious financial and political problems because of current developments, according to their country's ambassador in Moscow.

Interviewed by the Mozambiquan Sunday paper, *Domingo*, ambassador Concalves Senga said the students were being "seriously affected" – including being caught up in violent ethnic unrest – and that already 30 of 600 Mozambiquan students in the USSR had been forced to leave the towns where they were studying.

The problem is twofold. Economic reform demands that the constituent republics of the Soviet Union must balance their budgets. Several of them, therefore, are now demanding that foreign students assigned to them by all-union exchange and aid programmes should pay their expenses in hard currency. Some foreign governments are managing to do so but, says Mr Senga, there is no chance of Mozambique being able to comply.

The other fact, political unrest, has resulted in at least two Mozambiquan students being beaten up during ethnic clashes in Baku, capital of Azerbaijan. In some towns, students told a *Domingo* reporter, they are afraid to go out of doors, and do so only to get from their hostels to lectures and back. The students also complained of poor quality food provided in Soviet countries, some of which they say is unfit for human consumption.

At least part of the trouble, however, appears to be lack of preparedness on the part of the students. Many of them arrived in the Soviet Union without making any provision for the climate. They have no winter clothing or boots, and in the current economic chaos have little chance of buying any.