

## ...while in the Soviet Union

The upheavals in the Soviet Union are seriously affecting Mozambican students there, 30 of whom have had to abandon the cities where they were studying, for security or financial reasons, according to a 30 December report in the Sunday paper *Domingo*.

According to the Mozambican ambassador in Moscow, Gonçalves Sengo, the authorities in some of the 15 republics that make up the USSR have adopted new measures towards foreign students, demanding that their governments pay all the expenses involved in their education in hard currency.

The instability and violence affecting many parts of the Soviet Union have also had an impact on the 600 or so Mozambican students cur-

rently in the USSR. At least two Mozambican students have been beaten up in Baku, capital of Azerbaijan.

Some of the students told a *Domingo* reporter that the tension was so great that they feared to walk further than from their residences to their places of study.

The grant that Mozambican students receive is between 90 and 100 roubles a month (less than US\$50), and Mr Sengo could see no chance of the Mozambican government following the example of certain other countries who manage to provide their students in the USSR with a hard currency supplement.

The harsh Moscow winters present the Mozambicans with other serious problems, since some left Africa completely un-

prepared for the Soviet climate. Without boots or warm clothing, and facing temperatures that can drop to 30 degrees below zero, some of these students have been forced to turn to the embassy for assistance.

Nonetheless, Mr Sengo remains convinced that the Soviet Union "offers the conditions for those who seriously want to study to do so, because here they have good and properly trained teaching staff".

The students are angered by the neglect they feel they suffer from the Mozambican authorities. "In Maputo nobody, absolutely nobody, wants to know", the chairman of the Nucleus of Mozambican Students in Moscow declared to *Domingo*.