

Russia backs

'action' warning to Portuguese

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LISBON REPLYING

New York, Wednesday.

THE United Nations Security Council was today to hear Portugal's answer to charges that African independence movements in Angola and Mozambique were ruthlessly suppressed by Portuguese forces using Nato weapons. The Portuguese Foreign Minister, Dr. Alberto Franco Nogueira, will deliver his Government's statement.

The Soviet delegate, Dr. Nikolai Fedorenko, has given a clear hint that Russia is ready to prevent the council's adoption of any measures to halt a possible intervention by African States in the Portuguese territories.

He said that it would be "legitimate, humanitarian and fully justified" if independent States of Africa used armed force to assist their brethren in the Portuguese possessions.

(The delegates of Sierra Leone and Madagascar, two of the four African States deputed by their colleagues to present the case against Portugal, spoke of the possibility of armed action in their addresses to the council.)

representative to take part in the debate on apartheid.

Earlier, Mr. Louw announced that South Africa would not seek the floor except in special circumstances.

Mr. Matthys Botha, South African Resident Representative, has been watching the proceedings from the observers' benches.

Neither Portugal nor South Africa is a member of the Security Council.

'Beyond pale'

Dr. Fedorenko said it might also be concluded that Portugal had placed herself "beyond the pale of the United Nations" — an allusion to suggestions that Lisbon be expelled from the world body.

He also pledged Soviet support for any demands the Africans made in the council.

It was expected that a draft resolution would be tabled today or tomorrow calling for measures to be taken by the council to curb Portugal's alleged repressions.

These could include a call for an arms embargo and other sanctions.

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The council is expected to complete consideration of the Portuguese territories issue before turning to a parallel complaint by the African States against South Africa's practice of apartheid.

The president, Mr. Ahmed Benhima of Morocco, sent a telegram to the South African Foreign Minister, Mr. Eric Louw, inviting him to designate a re-