

Mozambique abolishes security police

18 JUL 1981

AP

MAPUTO. — Mozambique's Parliament has abolished the country's powerful security police in the latest of a series of reforms and agreed to set up a slimmed-down espionage and counter-intelligence service.

The People's National Security Service (SNASP), scrapped on Tuesday night by the Assembly of the Republic (Parliament), was created shortly after independence from Portugal in

1975 with sweeping police powers in addition to its role as an intelligence organisation.

The SNASP was not only empowered to investigate potential threats to national security but also to make house searches, detain suspects and decide whether an accused person should be tried or sent to a labour reform camp.

The assembly approved a bill creating a new body, the State and Information

and Security Service (SISE), restricted exclusively to intelligence and counter-intelligence.

Only the criminal investigation police now have the powers of search and arrest. Anyone arrested for security offences will have a right to trial by ordinary courts.

Mozambique's ruling Frelimo Party has ditched Marxism-Leninism for multi-party rule and a market economy. — Sapa-Reuter.