

Winged victory

THE real significance of the incident involving the "capture" of a Mozambican MiG-17 by the South African Air Force is that Lieutenant Bomba and his plane are an acute embarrassment to the South African authorities. The plane is worthless, being the Russian equivalent of our Sabre jets. The man is Black, and were he a migrant who had attempted to jump the border in order to seek work in South Africa, he would quickly have been bundled back to Mozambique as a foreign Black. What is to be done with him? According to our existing laws, even if he is allowed to seek work in South Africa (and why should he be?) he must return home after each period of 12 months' service. Obviously he will not relish that prospect.

Why is it that we have to wait for an incident like this one before the absurdities of our influx control laws become apparent to us? Why is it that we continue to prop up a system which is a logical and moral absurdity? Perhaps Lieutenant Bomba could answer those questions as an admission requirement.

Natal Witness 13/7/81