

Neighbourly relations

NEWS of a projected meeting between the foreign ministers of South Africa and Mozambique is most welcome. Mozambique, a poor country with much to lose in a hostile relationship with a powerful neighbour, has repeatedly alleged that South Africa supports the Mozambique Resistance Movement. The MNR has been carrying out large-scale sabotage and terrorism in Mozambique and that country is anxious that the destruction should cease. Maputo likewise wants an end to the pre-emptive strikes into Mozambique which have been carried out by the SADF aimed at the ANC. If relations are to be normalized, South Africa will want to be satisfied that Mozambique is not

allowing the ANC to set up bases on its territory from which attacks on the Republic can be mounted. Mozambique will probably agree to such terms. But Pretoria may well be demanding rather more than this — and insisting upon direct co-operation between the security services of both countries. While this country's neighbours may well be persuaded to refrain from actively supporting the ANC, it is improbable that they can be inspanned as active partners in a drive to wipe it out. Pretoria should be realistic. The wise course, on the long term, would be to win the co-operation and confidence of its neighbours by aid and diplomacy rather than by resorting to the big stick.

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