

'Mozambique now facing constant aggression'

PRESIDENT Samora Machel has accused South Africa of viewing Mozambique as "a target to be shot down".

Speaking at a banquet in honour of Iranian President Ali Khamenei in Maputo last night the Mozambican leader said the country "now faces constant aggression through armed bandits supported, trained, equipped, supplied and financed by the regime in South Africa".

President Khamenei is

due to arrive in Harare this morning for a three-day state visit.

The MNR bandits were "an extension" of the South African army, he continued. By using bandit gangs "the basic aim of the South African warmongers is the destruction of the Mozambican democratic state".

President Machel also sharply criticised the South African blockade of Lesotho as "clear evidence of the inhuman character of the apartheid regime and its disregard for the rules of international law".

On the war between Iran and Iraq, President

Machel said Mozambique "shares the concern of the international community". He hoped that this year "good sense and harmony will prevail to bring an end to the Gulf War which has already cost thousands of lives".

President Khamenei praised Mozambique's struggle against apartheid and expressed pleasure at the increase in the two countries' bilateral relations and the agreement on the supply of oil on preferential terms to Mozambique that was reached when Mozambican foreign minister Joachim Chissano visited Teheran in August. — Ziana.