

# LISBON PLEDGES TO STOP SA BANDITS

LISBON. THE Portuguese government has promised to take measures to stop the terrorist activities of the South African-backed anti-Angolan and anti-Mozambican armed bandits.

In a declaration issued in Lisbon at the end of their trip to Portugal, the ministers of foreign affairs of the five African Portuguese-speaking countries stressed that armed banditry and political destabilisation against the five countries harm

the interests of Portugal. They stated that it was the responsibility and in the interest of the Portuguese government to protect the life and interests of Portuguese citizens wherever they are threatened by armed banditry or by "the so-called opposition to Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau and Sao Tome and Principe".

The foreign affairs ministers of Angola, Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique and Sao Tome and Principe reaffirmed the destabilising

activities of apartheid South Africa in independent Southern African countries specifically in Angola and Mozambique.

The ministers on Monday delivered a message from President Joachim Chissano of Mozambique to the Portuguese Prime Minister concerning cooperation with Portugal.

In Harare yesterday Mozambican Foreign Minister, Cde Pascoal Manuel Mocumbi, briefed his Zimbabwean counterpart, Dr Witness Mangwende, on the Lisbon meeting

between the Portuguese government and its five former colonies.

Mozambican Ambassador Francisco Madeira told local journalists that his minister had briefed Cde Mangwende about the end of meeting communique in which the Portuguese government promised to take firm action against activities of the South African-backed armed Unita and MNR bandits fighting Angola and Mozambique respectively.

The Portuguese President Mario Soares on

Tuesday pledged his country's unreserved support for the international community's struggle against apartheid and said the existence of "that odious and inhuman regime" engendered permanent destabilisation of Southern Africa.

Mr Soares, who was addressing a special sitting of the 73rd session of the International Labour Conference in Geneva, devoted a considerable part of his speech to the urgent need to combat the global unemployment problem. — Ziana-Pana-Angop.