

MAPUTO.

AS a result of the war of destabilisation waged by the MNR bandits, 500 Mozambican teachers have been murdered, and the whereabouts of a further 3 000 are unknown. President Joaquim Chissano said in Maputo yesterday.

He was speaking at the opening of the second conference of Mozam-

500 Mozambican teachers die in war

bique's National Teachers' Organisation: "We know of many other teachers who have been mutilated," he said.

Cde Chissano stressed that in the 10 years of the ONP's existence, and the 16 years of Mozambican independence, there had

been a quantitative and qualitative growth in Mozambican educational institutions.

In 1981, there were 20 000 teachers in the country, he said. Today that figure has increased by 40 percent. There are now 400 Mozambicans

teaching at the country's only university, as against just 40 at independence in 1975.

At independence the illiteracy rate was estimated at 93 percent, but has now been cut back to around 75 percent, said the president.

But nobody should feel satisfied at these advances, continued Cde Chissano, since the number of teachers was still "extremely inadequate", as were the material conditions they faced.

"There is a dramatic shortage of teaching ma-

terial and of classrooms," said Cde Chissano. "Classes have excessive numbers of pupils which makes teaching work extremely difficult."

The numbers of children who fail in the Mozambican education system is very high, he pointed out, and the number of children unable to enter school at all is on the increase. — Ziana-Pana.