

Maputo, SA agree to probe massacre

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CAPE TOWN. SOUTH Africa and Mozambique have agreed to set up a joint working group to investigate the Homoine massacre and general security situation in the region.

The South African minister of foreign affairs, Mr Pik Botha, and the Mozambican Minister of Co-operation, Cde Jacinto Veloso, were clearly in good spirits when the Mozambican delegation left Mr Botha's home, Newlands House, after three hours of deliberation on Thursday.

They left for DF Malan Airport following a working lunch which was attended by the Minister of Law and Order, Mr Adriaan Vlok, his commissioner of police, General H. De Witt, and the SADF commander on the Mozambican sector, Lt-Gen J. Van Loggerenberg. Senior officials of the two countries' foreign

affairs departments and the head of the National Intelligence Service, Dr Neil Barnard also attended.

According to both ministers they had agreed to the creation of mechanisms — a joint working group or commission — to investigate the major bone of contention between them: Mozambique's allegation that South Africa was responsible for the massacre of nearly 400 civilians at Homoine last week.

This was the first round of talks between the two countries at ministerial level since the death of President Samora Machel last year.

Meanwhile, the Soviet-Mozambican summit has reaffirmed Moscow's invariable solidarity with the Frontline States and national liberation movements.

The General Secretary

of the CPSU central committee, Cde Mikhail Gorbachev, stated at a recent dinner in the Kremlin in honour of visiting Mozambican President Joaquim Chissano: "The collapse of apartheid is ineluctable.

"But we are not supporters of 'the worse the better'.

"There is no doubt at all that elimination of the racist system through a political settlement would be in the interests of all South Africans — both black and white.

"The road to such a settlement should be sought and found. It is high time for Pretoria to understand this as well. New ideas, a fresh approach and collective efforts are needed."

The Soviet leader said he placed invaluable importance on the opinion of the USSR's Mozambican friends on this issue. — Ziana-Sapa-APN.