

Mozambique

An Angolan-style peace initiative to end the Mozambique war could be under way after Foreign Minister Pik Botha's visit to Maputo yesterday for talks with President Joaquim Chissano. Mr Chissano agreed to Mr Botha's proposal that America could play a role in ending the conflict between the Frelimo government and the MNR.

The Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) said in a statement last night that Mr Botha and Mr Chissano had agreed that the Angolan and Mozambican situations were completely different. Because both the South African and Mozambique governments agreed on the need to end the conflict there was no need for a third country to play a go-between role. However, if America 'or other countries' wished to play a 'constructive role' in ending the conflict they were welcome to discuss this with the two governments...

Though the Soviet Union was not explicitly mentioned in the statement, the reference to 'other countries' had left the way open for its involvement. Mr Botha said at a news briefing in Cape Town this week that he had written to the US government offering South Africa's help in ending the Mozambique war.

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