

Mozambique and South Africa

Maputo radio reported that Lt-Gen Armando Guebuza, National Political Commissar of Mozambique's armed forces, had told a meeting in Maputo on 6th February, attended by Party officials and others involved in public security, of the need to be more vigilant in view of the intensification of enemy actions against the country. In addition to the criminal action in Matola the Pretoria regime had been building up troops and war equipment on the border with Mozambique and had recalled South African workers from Maputo; that could mean the enemy was preparing fresh attacks on Mozambique. *For details see Sections

Johannesburg radio on 7th February quoted a South African Defence Force spokesman as saying that the claims by Mozambique that it feared an imminent attack were absurd; Mozambique was stretching its propaganda very far with the claims.* In the same broadcast Johannesburg radio reported that in a message to the UN Secretary General about the 30th January attack on African National Congress hideouts in and around Maputo, the Foreign Minister, Roelof Botha, had said Mozambique had been warned that unless steps were taken to end terrorist activities South Africa would be forced to take appropriate steps. South Africa had evidence that attacks in South Africa had been planned and launched from the ANC premises in Maputo. The time had come for the countries co-operating with the terrorists to make a choice between constructive development and violent destruction. *For details see Sections

MENA on 7th February reported a statement made by a "responsible source" that Egypt had heard with extreme concern the reports about South Africa's aggression against Mozambique and "the concentration of troops and equipment on its border". Egypt expressed its "readiness to offer all forms of aid that Mozambique may need". *For details see Sections