

## MOZAMBIQUE-SOUTH AFRICA ARB(P) 20(1)

### Growing Pressures 15/2/83

Mozambique is looking for urgent military and diplomatic help in the face of growing South African pressure. In a meeting with senior Frelimo leaders, the first for more than a year, the South African Foreign Minister, Mr. Pik Botha, made it clear that he wants the African National Congress (ANC) out of Maputo, according to diplomatic sources. To stress the point, South Africa has stepped up its attacks into Mozambique.

The meeting, in the South African border town of Komatipoort in December, was between Mr. Botha and the Mozambican Security Minister, Mr. Jacinto Veloso, and the Frelimo security head, Mr. Sergio Vieira. Diplomatic sources say South Africa was annoyed that Mr. Botha's counterpart, Mr. Joaquim Chissano, was not in the delegation, and that the Mozambicans offered no concessions. More talks are to be held.

Mozambique hopes to get increased military help from its traditional allies, and it also hopes that Western countries will put diplomatic pressure on South Africa to reduce its attacks.

Although South Africa's immediate demand concerns the ANC, neither diplomats nor Mozambican officials are convinced that the ANC represents a serious threat to South Africa. Many feel that a successful socialist, multiracial state on its border represents a bigger long-term threat, and the ANC is being used as an excuse for attacks on Mozambique.

The Komatipoort meeting came just a day after Swaziland succumbed to South African pressure and rounded up 25 ANC leaders (p. 6676) and a week after the raid on ANC houses in Lesotho (p. 6673). In South African eyes, this leaves Mozambique as the main remaining source of infiltrators from the ANC military wing, *Umkhonto We Sizwe* (Spear of the Nation).

### Attacks Stepped Up

South Africa wants South African refugees and ANC members moved from Maputo to remote areas of Mozambique, far from the South African border. Some diplomatic sources say that South Africa is even demanding to approve a list of "genuine refugees" allowed to stay in Maputo.

South Africa has backed its demands with its most explicit attacks on Mozambique in more than a year. The oil depot raid on December 9th is believed to have been the work of South African commandos, and the South African backed Mozambique National Resistance (MNR) has been making raids across a section of the border which is closely guarded by South African security forces.

In mid-December, a series of raids destroyed cattle stations along the Mozambican side of the border, 100 miles from Maputo. In January the

MNR struck 90 miles north of Maputo, attacking traffic on the main road and destroying part of Mozambique's most important state farm.

The raiders were eventually repelled by the Mozambican army. But the incidents make clear that South Africa is pushing the MNR across the border closer to Maputo than ever before.

### Military Aid

Frelimo's response to the South African pressure must be conditioned by how much additional help it receives. There are already 600 to 1,200 Zimbabwean troops in Mozambique, plus 400 Tanzanians providing basic military training, and 500 to 1,000 Eastern Bloc (Cuban, Russian, East German, Hungarian, and Czech) advisers, according to diplomatic sources.

Further Cuban involvement is a central issue, and must have been discussed when the Cuban Vice-President, Mr. Juan Almeida Bosque was in Maputo.

The US Deputy Under-Secretary of State for African Affairs, Mr. Frank Wisner, who visited Mozambique in December, is said to have warned President Machel not to "internationalise" the war, which means no Cuban troops. But Mr. Wisner also made it clear that further help from neighbours such as Tanzania and Zimbabwe was acceptable to the US.

The US also appears to back South Africa's demand to move the ANC out of Maputo. Nevertheless, Frelimo hopes that the US preoccupation with keeping Cuban troops out is so strong that it will put pressure on South Africa to wind down the war.

President Machel now puts considerable weight on the role of the UN Security Council. At a reception for diplomats recently, he spoke informally with the ambassadors of the five main powers, stressing their countries' responsibility to respond to South African aggression against Lesotho and Mozambique, to prevent the conflict expanding into a "generalised war".

For the past year, Mozambique has been trying to build warmer relations with Britain and the United States. President Machel hopes to visit Britain in May. Three Mozambican ministers visited the US last year, and President Machel met Mr. Wisner in Mozambique.

### Summary Executions

Four men accused of being rebels have been summarily executed in Mozambique before an approving crowd of 2,000, including two senior government ministers.

The executions took place at a public meeting in Macia, 75 miles north of Maputo. The deputy defence minister, General Sebastiao Mabote, who ordered the executions, and the Foreign Minister, Mr. Joaquim Chissano, were at the public meeting. Both are members of the Frelimo Politburo, Mozambique's highest political body.

Excerpts were broadcast by Mozambique Radio. The four who admitted belonging to the MNR were presented to the crowd and General Mabote asked what should be done with them. "Kill them", the crowd yelled back. The general then asked the people if they wanted to kill the men themselves. "Yes", they screamed.

But General Mabote said there might be enemy agents present who would take reprisals, and summoned a platoon of soldiers to execute the four men summarily.

Macia has been the scene of heavy fighting between the MNR and the army recently. But the executed men were captured in Dindiza, 100 miles to the north.

Reuters News Agency comments that the incident was unusual even in the increasingly widespread war between the MNR and the Mozambican Government. Rebel prisoners are normally tried by a revolutionary military tribunal empowered to pass death sentences.

Recently there have been increasing reports of MNR atrocities in Gaza province. (GD 11.1.17/1)

### Consul Recalled

Citing a Portuguese agency report, Radio Lisbon said on January 20th that following a protest by the Portuguese Foreign Ministry, the Mozambican Government was understood to have made a formal apology for violation of diplomatic immunity in the matter of the Portuguese Consul in Beira, whose recall to Lisbon had been requested after the discovery of weapons in the grounds of his residence. The protest had concerned restriction of the Consul's freedom of movement. He had now left for Lisbon.