

SA 'will strive for Mozambican peace'

Star 15.12.87

By David Braun, Political Correspondent

South Africa was prepared to go out of its way to bring together the two warring parties in Mozambique, Defence Minister General Magnus Malan said in Switzerland.

He was addressing the Swiss South Africa Association in Zurich.

General Malan was on a lightning visit to Europe as a guest of the association and returned to South Africa later last week.

In a prepared text of his speech released by his office in Pretoria, General Malan said South Africa considered the Nkomati Accord a model for relations with other countries in the sub-continent.

In terms of the accord, South Africa had rendered large-scale support to Mozambique, investing R48 million in various projects in the country since the signing of the agreement in March 1984.

Despite this economic and other aid, he said, Mozambique did not honour the ground rules for sound relations.

"Terrorists are allowed freedom of movement. Unfortunately, disinformation, agitation and propaganda against South Africa has become a way of life for some countries, such as Mozambique, Angola and Zimbabwe," he said.

"In the case of Mozambique, this is so even though Article 5 of the accord forbids and prohibits propaganda."

General Malan said he believed the solution to Mozambique's massive human suffering lay in the field of negotiation and reconciliation.

It was in that country's interests that the two warring factions, Frelimo and the MNR, should be brought together at the conference table.

South Africa was prepared to go out of its way to bring the two parties together, he said.

"In order to achieve that objective, we reserve in a responsible manner the right to a certain degree of movement — all directed at the interests of that country and the stability and prosperity of our region.

"Our choice is not between Frelimo and Renamo — we have a commitment to order and stability.

"The Nkomati Accord remains a practical basis for co-operation, and we intend exploring its possibilities, as in the past," said General Malan.