

Mandela receives hero's welcome

BD 21/7/94

Mozambique, SA sign pact on new links

MAPUTO — President Nelson Mandela started his three-day visit to Mozambique yesterday by signing a joint co-operation agreement covering security, trade and the Cahora Bassa hydroelectric scheme.

Mandela received a hero's welcome as his jet touched down at Maputo Airport for his first state visit. He was met by Mozambican President Joaquim Chissano and thousands of Mozambicans who sang, danced and beat drums to celebrate his arrival. A 21-gun salute was fired as a military band played both countries' national anthems, after which the presidents inspected a guard of honour.

The two leaders were taken from the airport in a cavalcade headed by about 12 motorcycles. The entourage brought central Maputo to a standstill as thousands of people lined the streets waving SA flags.

Mandela and Chissano held talks at the Presidential Palace and signed the co-operation agreement, which dealt mainly with security matters and included provision for a joint security commission to look into illegal immigration, and arms and drugs smuggling.

It in effect confirmed the Nkomati Accord, signed in 1984 by former presidents PW Botha and Samora Machel. However, the new security commission is expected

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ensure border security. The agreement is intended to increase the level of co-operation. The accord's security aspects were agreed last week after Defence Minister Joe Modise visited Mozambique.

The agreement also confirmed other international co-operation agreements already negotiated between the two governments, including the Cahora Bassa pact. Officials expect the supply of electricity from Mozambique to be restored soon, but no dates have been set.

SA officials said Mozambique was likely to raise the issue of the quota of Mozambicans working on SA mines. Mozambique would like the quota increased, but the officials said specific agreements were not likely yet. Mozambique would also like to see some categories of goods allowed into SA tariff free.

Mandela is expected to meet President Quett Masire of Botswana and President Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe during his trip, which coincides with a science and technology conference in Maputo.

His entourage includes Science and Technology Minister Ben Ngubane, Foreign Affairs director-general Rusty Evans and adviser Jakes Gerwel.