

Jorge Costa and the 'total onslaught'

THE defection of Mozambique's National Director of Security, Mr Jorge Costa, has provided South Africa with a useful propaganda windfall. He has told a sad story of decline in his country under a Marxist system of government in which the economy has virtually collapsed and Mozambique's friends in Eastern Europe have failed to provide the help they promised.

Mr Costa has also advanced interesting reasons why the Soviet Union, particularly, should have allowed this to happen. The plan, he says, is to reduce Mozambique to the point that it is at the mercy of the Soviet bloc, so that it can take control of a state on the borders of its main target in the region — rich and fertile South Africa. His story is borne out by the steady flow of starving people across the border into the Eastern Transvaal, where more than 1 000

illegal immigrants a month are being returned to Mozambique.

While South Africa can justifiably exploit Mr Costa's views to expose the fallacious argument that Marxism will transform the fortunes of a struggling community, they should not be used as a smokescreen to hide the defects in our own society.

Mr Costa's arrival fits nicely into the "total onslaught" theory, which the Nationalists have used in an attempt to draw support from all quarters for an embattled Government fighting a righteous battle against Marxism. We believe Nationalist leaders are also well aware that this tactic cannot succeed without another vital component to the plan: it has to show blacks that it has something better to offer than Marxism, and that must involve rapid political reform, the elimination of racialism and an improved quality of life for all.