

Defector a traitor, charges Maputo

MAPUTO. — Mozambique yesterday accused its security chief, who defected on Monday to South Africa, of being a traitor who terrorised Whites and foreigners.

The official Mozambican News Agency (AIM) quoted a Security Ministry statement as saying that security chief Mr George Costa, who sought political asylum in South Africa while on official business, created "instability and terror among White Mozambicans and foreigners".

The Mozambican official sought asylum at Jan Smuts Airport shortly before he was due to return to Mozambique after talks on security issues.

He told a news conference later that Soviet influence in his country was increasing.

The Mozambican News Agency described

Mr Costa's defection as treason. "He's given himself up to Pretoria. You know what this means. Prepare for an attack," AIM quoted Mozambican President Samora Machel as saying.

President Machel added: "Now we are telling all Mozambicans who collaborate with Pretoria: You won't have a place in the last boat when apartheid is destroyed."

Mr Costa had opposed an official campaign being waged to stamp out abuse of power and violation of civil rights by defence and security forces, the Security Ministry said.

He is the third senior official to abscond recently, along with the First Secretary at the Mozambican Embassy in Harare, Mr Antonio Andre Rocha, and the Director of Finance at the President's Office, Mr Zulficar Tricamegy, the agency said. —Sapa-Reuter.