

Defector may have given tip

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MR JORGE da Costa, the Director of Mozambique's National Service of Popular Security (SNASP) may have informed the South African authorities of his intention to defect late last Friday — more than 48 hours before he formally requested political asylum at Jan Smuts Airport at 7am on Monday.

A senior member of the *Noticias* newspaper in Maputo said Mr Costa's desertion was "an act of treason which has shocked Maputo".

He said Mr Costa's marriage was apparently on the rocks.

The Rand Daily Mail has established that the defector's full name is Jorge Manuel Antunes da Costa and that he was a university student until shortly before the signing of the September 1974 Lusaka agreement, which granted Mozambique its independence.

According to another source in Maputo, two other defections have taken place. They are:

- The Mozambican Ambassador to Portugal, Mr Joao Apaide who, since leaving on a visit to France and Belgium early last month, has so far failed to return to his embassy in Lisbon.

- Mr Zulficar Dricamegy, director of Finance in the Office of the President, who has

also disappeared and is rumoured in Maputo to have fled to Switzerland.

So far there has been no official comment on the whereabouts of the men.

UPI reports that Mozambique is sending a diplomatic investigator to Lisbon to check on the defection of the ambassador Mr Joao Apaide. It said this was reported from Maputo by the Portuguese news agency Anop yesterday.

The agency said the Mozambique Government was expected to issue a statement later in the day.

It quoted unofficial sources in Maputo as saying Mr Apaide's defection was "practically confirmed", lacking "only minor points for absolute confirmation".

The whereabouts of Mr Apaide, who became Mozambique's ambassador to Portugal in November 1981, was still unknown.

Confirmation of his defection would raise to four the number of top Mozambican officials who have defected in the past three weeks, the fourth being the First Secretary at Mozambique's embassy in Zimbabwe who disappeared with R200 000.

An embassy spokesman said Mr Apaide left last week saying he was going to France and Belgium on diplomatic business.

Anop said a Foreign Ministry official was scheduled to fly to Lisbon yesterday to investigate Mr Apaide's disappearance and assume the role of interim ambassador.