

VORSTER SANCTIONS THREAT TO BRING MACHEL TO HEEL

By **BRUCE LOUDON** in Cape Town

MR VORSTER was reported last night to be considering "economic sanctions" against Mozambique unless President Samora Machel backs down from his militant opposition to the Rhodesian settlement plan.

South African political sources claimed that Mr Vorster had received the go-ahead from both the United States and Britain to "remind" President Machel of the degree to which his fragile economy is dependent on South African goodwill.

A South African Cabinet minister was quoted as saying: "I don't think emotional cries will cause South Africa to act irresponsibly. But if it comes to the crunch we will act unhesitatingly and end all assistance to Mozambique."

The Minister said South Africa did not want to abandon its policy of "good neighbourliness" towards Mozambique, since the economic well-being of the Marx-

ist State was fundamental to peace in the sub-continent. "Whether we act depends on how far they go in their campaign to wreck the peace talks."

'Economic sabotage'

Political sources say Mr Vorster is enraged by President Machel's attitude.

A hint of what may be a warning already communicated to Maputo was given last week by Dr Marcelino dos Santos, the Mozambican vice-president. He accused South Africa and Rhodesia of "waging a war of economic sabotage and suppression" against his country.