

# 'VORSTER DISMAYED' BY ATTACK

By BRUCE LOUDON  
in Cape Town

**MR VORSTER**, South African Prime Minister, summoned his top advisers last night to consider a request from Dr Owen, Foreign Secretary, that he should intervene to secure the withdrawal of Rhodesian forces from Mozambique.

Mr Botha, Foreign Minister, and Mr Brand Fourie, Permanent Secretary for Foreign Affairs, were hurrying back to Cape Town from Maseru, capital of Lesotho, where they were on an official visit.

The British request, in the form of a formal note was handed to the Foreign Ministry in Cape Town. Although there was no immediate information on its contents, it is reliably learned that it requests Mr Vorster to exert his influence on Mr Smith to secure a Rhodesian withdrawal.

The note appears to recognise that Mr Vorster alone has the power to persuade Mr Smith away from his present course.

## Intervention feared

Authoritative sources say Dr Owen pointed out in the Note that the Rhodesian occupation of parts of Mozambique could have "disastrous" effects on the Anglo-American peace initiative and lead to a growth of the military confrontation in Southern Africa.

Mr Vorster and his most senior political and military advisers are known to be particularly sensitive to the possibility that the Rhodesian action will lead to an "internationalisation" of the conflict.

A source close to Mr Vorster told me last night: "The last thing the Prime Minister wants to see is full-scale Cuban or Nigerian or Somali involvement to protect Mozambique because of the actions of Mr Smith and General Walls the Rhodesian defence chief.

Mr Vorster was reported to be "dismayed" by the turn of events in Rhodesia. Equally, he is unwilling to interfere in Mr Smith's internal affairs — although he has in the past gone to some lengths to point out the "folly" of some of Mr Smith's actions.