



President Samora Machel (right) with ANC President Oliver Tambo... 'We will fight shoulder to shoulder until apartheid falls'

MOZAMBIQUE

Frelimo draws the battleline

by Our Special Correspondent

THE South African commando attack on Maputo has provoked Mozambique into a new and very hard line against the South African Government. For the first time, President Samora Machel has declared explicitly that 'the Boers are the enemy'. He threw his support firmly behind the ANC (African National Congress) (see page 35) and called on the Soviet Union for support.

The militancy surprised some diplomats in Pretoria and Maputo. But Mozambique believes the commando raid is not an isolated event and that South Africa has raised the level of the conflict and further attacks are inevitable. So Mozambique is now preparing for war. Newspaper headlines and banners declare 'We are not afraid of war' and 'Let them come — no one will leave alive'. Security is being tightened at the airport and other key installations. But the stress is being put on popular mobilization.

President Machel himself set the ball rolling when he told a cheering crowd of 50,000 in the mid-day sun of Maputo's Independence Square on 14 February: 'Sharpen your hoes and picks to break the heads of Boers. Prepare yourselves with all types of arms so that no aggressor leaves our country alive'. Vigilance groups and militias are being strengthened and first aid groups set up, particularly in Maputo's sprawling suburbs. In schools and factories, evacuation plans are being drawn up and air raid shelters are to be built, according to Maputo's Mayor Antonio Thai. Young people

are to receive paramilitary training. Special games are being prepared for children such as who can run away from a hand grenade fastest. Similar games were used in the liberated zones during the independence war against the Portuguese.

The reason for the stress on popular mobilization is not that the Government really believes that Mozambicans can beat South African arms with picks and hoes. Rather, the experience of the Rhodesian war suggests that the biggest threat, in the near future, is sabotage.

Air attacks

Other tactics were used to demoralize and confuse people. And Rhodesian agents partially succeeded in disrupting the economy, especially in 1979 — the last year of that war. A higher degree of popular mobilization is the only effective way to combat sabotage. Nevertheless, the Government also believes that further attacks are inevitable, and that air attacks on Maputo are possible.

In his speech, Machel stressed that the commando raid was not just an attack on the ANC — it was 'an act of war' against Mozambique. The reason for this view is that the attack is not an isolated incident. South Africa supported Portugal with money, arms and even soldiers in its fight against Frelimo. It also supported rightwing anti-Frelimo groups during the transitional government in 1974. Then South Africa supported Rhodesia in

its attacks on Mozambique. But South Africa 'no longer has countries to serve Machel explained. "The South African regime is forced to confront independent Africa directly. The regime of South Africa now appears in direct confrontation with us'.

Confrontation

An important aspect of this confrontation, and one which has clearly pushed Mozambique into its harder position, is that South Africa has taken up the support of the National Resistance Movement. This group of anti-Frelimo Mozambicans was created, trained, armed and supplied by Ian Smith's Special Branch. After Lancaster House South Africa took up their support and training.

In February the Mozambican Government allowed interviews with six Resistance Movement defectors. One of them, Orlando Julio Inacio, is probably the highest level defector so far. He was a company commander and one of the top dozen men in the movement. The men said that South African planes brought them not only food, weapons and ammunition, as well as cigarettes, but also clothes and tinned food to distribute to the peasants. Another of the six, radio operator Jose Gilbert, said he had used a South African supplied racial SRA 48 radio to keep in regular touch with the South Africans, and to arrange a trip there for the new resistance leader Djacano, who replaced Andrea after he was killed by the Mozambican army in November 1979.

And in his speech, Machel said that in late January the Mozambican army killed 70 men crossing the border near Pafuri, where the Mozambican, Zimbabwean, and South African borders meet. Among the weapons captured were two heavy machine-guns and six bazookas.

However, the aspect of South African sabotage that shocked Mozambicans most was the deep South African penetration of the Mozambican military. In his 14 February speech, Machel admitted that 'agents and traitors had informed the enemy about our combat readiness, our deployment, our weapons, and our defensive system. Others disorganized and destroyed transport'. Still others interfered with vital communications. The result was that although the South Africans crossed the border 23 hours and were only here after, the air was not in-