

SA border raids 'no accident'

Argus Bureau

LONDON. — The South African raids into Angola and Mozambique were no accident — Mr P W Botha needs them as proof of his strength as a leader.

This is the view of Mr R W Johnson, a British academic and former Natal Rhodes Scholar, whose book, *How Long Will South Africa Survive?*, caused a stir when it was published in 1977.

In an interview on the BBC's world service, Mr Johnson was asked if he

thought the raids had anything to do with the general election campaign in South Africa, and whether Mr Botha needed them as proof of his strength as a leader.

'Oh, absolutely,' he said. 'I'm sure it is no accident they are taking place now. I think that standing up tough abroad is very good.'

'One must remember

that the last South African election was won by Mr Vorster on a very anti-American crusade.

'It's ironic that that's gone and it does seem they are now much more aligned with the Americans than before.'

The interviewer: 'And by the same token much more confident about the future?'

Mr Johnson: 'I think so, yes. While Reagan stays and while Senator Jesse Helms is as powerful as he is now, they have got the best possible back-up that they could have, particularly when the present international recession makes the idea of sanctions very implausible, I think.'

(News by A J Bavers, 85 Fleet Street, London.)

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