

Pik flies to Lisbon for 'secret' talks on Mozambique

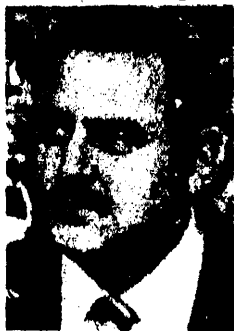
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LISBON — South Africa's Foreign Minister, Mr Pik Botha, will pay an unscheduled second visit here to discuss new developments in the search for an accommodation with Mozambique.

An official announcement last night said Mr Botha would return "to get answers to some of his questions". A spokesman said Maputo had provided the requested information but Angola had not.

News of the secret visit was leaked at the weekend by the Lisbon weekly newspaper "Expresso". The same newspaper, usually authoritative, also quoted an unnamed official source as saying that South Africa and Mozambique representatives would meet within the next three weeks.

Officials travelling with Mr Botha refused to comment on the "Expresso" report, nor on the secret meeting Mr Botha reportedly had in Bonn with representatives of another European country — a meeting which was apparently intended to pave the way for South African talks with Mozambique and Angola.



Mr Pik Botha

John D' Oliveira, of The Star's London Bureau, reports from Rome that Mr Botha had a full day of talks with Dr Chester Crocker and other American officials. Late last night the Foreign Minister said he could disclose nothing about the talks until he had reported to Prime Minister P W Botha. American officials also declined to comment.

In Washington, The Star Bureau today quoted Administration officials as saying it would be wrong to speculate about a Namibia settlement breakthrough coming out of Mr Botha's talks with Dr Crocker.