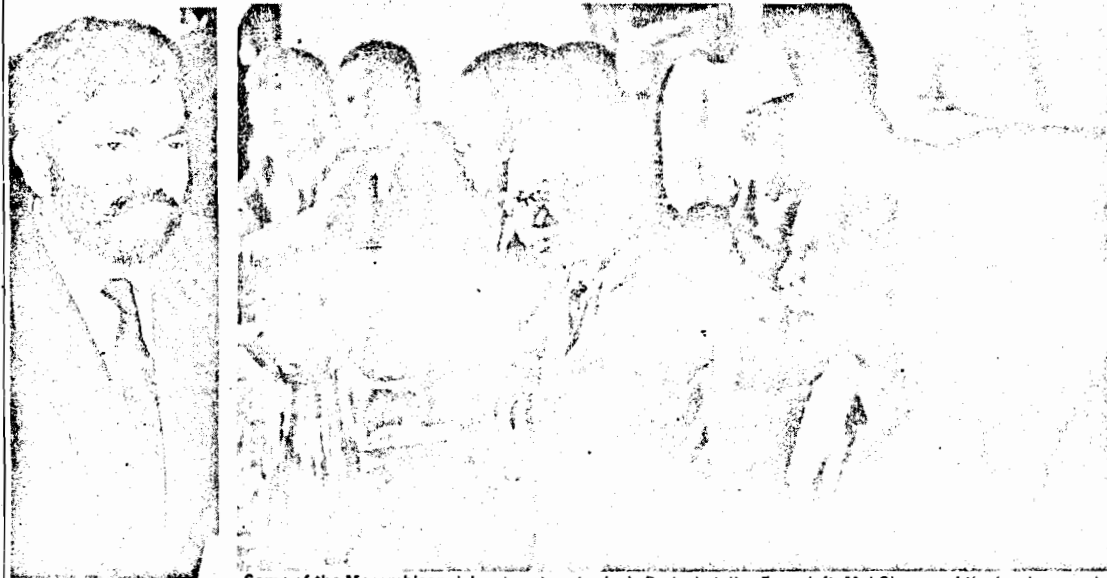




Flanked by aides, the Director General of Foreign Affairs and leader of the SA delegation at the talks in Maputo yesterday, Mr J Van Dalsen, (fourth from the left) listens pensively at the plenary session on economic affairs.



COL JOSE MONTEIRO
Minister of Justice and delegation leader.

Some of the Mozambican delegates at yesterday's Pretoria talks. From left: Maj Chongo of the border guards; Mr Francisco Madeira, Ambassador to Tanzania; Maj-Gen Antonio Hama Thai, Chief of the Air Force; Maj-Gen Salesio Teodoro Nalyambipano, Deputy Minister of Security; Col Oscar Monteiro, delegation leader; Col Sergio Vieira, Deputy Minister of the Defence; and Lieut-Col Fernando Honwana, President's personal assistant.

Delegates plunge into key meeting

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By JOSE CAETANO

THE vital security talks yesterday between South Africa and Mozambique began just before 11am behind closed doors at a Government guest house — barely an hour after the arrival from Maputo of the Mozambican delegates.

The South African delegation was led by Lieutenant-General Johan Coetzee, Commissioner of Police, while the Mozambican delegation was led by Colonel José Oscar Monteiro, Minister of Justice and member of Frelimo's 11-man Political Bureau.

Other South African delegates included: the Secretary-General of the Prime Minister's Office, Dr J P Roux; the Chief of Staff Operations of the SA Defence Force, Lieutenant-General Ian Clouston; Deputy Director-General of Foreign Affairs, Mr Ray Killen; Mr E W van Zyl of the security service, Mr J M Spaarwater, Mr W van der Waals, and Mr André Hosman from the Department of Foreign Affairs, who was secretary of the meeting.

The Mozambican delegation included two men who featured in the defence force leadership promotions announced by President Samora Machel early on Sunday morning. They are Colonel Sérgio Vieira, one of the two new deputy Defence Ministers, and the newly-appointed Chief of the Mozambican Air Force, Major-General António Hama Thai.

Other members were: Major-general Salesio Teodoro Nalyambipano, Deputy Minister of Security; Lieutenant Colonel Fernando Honwana, the Swaziland-educated personal assistant to President Samora Machel; Mr Francisco Madeira, Mozambican Ambassador to Tanzania; Mr A Chissano, of the Cabinet of the Presidency in Maputo and brother of the Mozambique's Foreign Minister Major-General Joaquim Chissano; and Major J Chongo of the Mozambican Border Guards.

The Mozambican delega-

tion was driven into the Waterkloof Guest House at 10am, half an hour after arriving at the Waterkloof Air Base outside Pretoria.

Immediately after arriving at the guest house, the visiting delegation sat down for tea with the South African negotiating team already assembled there.

Earlier a contingent of Mozambican Press, radio and television men, the first to have visited South Africa since their country's independence, landed at Wonderboom Airport aboard a Highlander aircraft of the Mozambican internal air carrier (TTA).

At 10.30am, with both delegations already seated at the long table of the narrow ground floor room, the first batch of the large Press and television crowd waiting outside was admitted for 10 minutes.

The identities of those in the Mozambican delegation were kept confidential until their arrival, with even Mozambican Pressmen kept in the dark.

On the Mozambican side of the table only Col Oscar Monteiro appeared to have a thick dossier in front of him, while on the South African side most of the delegates appeared to have more than just writing paper.

While Pressmen sought out vantage points, the two delegations engaged in small talk, with Gen Johan Coetzee asking both Col Monteiro and Col Vieira for their impressions of the trip.

Soon after, the conversation became general, with the South Africans leading the way.

A well-informed source in Pretoria speculated that the choice of the narrow ground floor room, in preference to other larger and spacious rooms in the complex, could indicate the desire of both delegations to meet in a more rapport-inducing venue.

The two delegations stayed locked in negotiations until late yesterday afternoon.