

# SA, Mozambique summit talks likely

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**LISBON.** — Preparations for a summit meeting between South African Prime Minister Mr P W Botha and Mozambique's President Samora Machel appeared to be well underway yesterday as Foreign Minister Mr Pik Botha and his party flew out of Lisbon en-route to Johannesburg.

In the two weeks since Mr Pik Botha paid an official three-day visit to Lisbon to discuss the situation in Southern Africa, Portugal has actively intervened in arranging the summit — a role confirmed yesterday by the Portuguese Foreign Ministry.

Mr Pik Botha's departure was delayed 18 hours by a blanket of thick fog at Lisbon Airport giving him time to sound out senior Portuguese Foreign

Ministry officials about Maputo's attitude to the mooted summit.

According to reliable sources in Lisbon, a top Portuguese diplomat was in Mozambique last week to convey the gist of Mr Botha's talks in Lisbon during his visit and discuss a possible top-level meeting between the two neighbouring states.

Nevertheless Mr Pik Botha was carefully non-committal about the matter when he spoke to newsmen moments before takeoff at Lisbon Airport.

Taking refuge in the formula that "diplomacy is best carried out in private", the Minister avoided confirming or denying that Portugal had been playing a role in getting the two neighbours together.

But he said: "My Government has always been in favour of discussion at the highest possible level — I believe that is the area where solutions are

bound to be found."

"My Prime Minister has often stated publicly that he is prepared to talk on condition that his colleagues in our neighbouring countries display the same seriousness and sincerity in wishing to resolve problems."

Pressed about possible talks Mr Botha said: "This is a matter between us, the Mozambican Government and perhaps the Portuguese Government."

Lisbon is very interested in developments in Mozambique for two reasons. South African-backed anti-government rebels of the Mozambiquan National Resistance have made Portugal's nationals working in the country a prime target for attacks and kidnappings.

Secondly, the sabotage plagued Cahora Bassa hydro-electric scheme, administered by the Portuguese, costs Lisbon a fortune every time it is attacked by guerrillas.

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