

# S. African peace pact a setback, Kaunda declares

By Michael Holman in Lusaka

THE NON-AGGRESSION pact signed by Mozambique and South Africa in March had "profound" and "adverse" consequences for the region which would be discussed at a summit of black front-line states in Tanzania later this month, President Kenneth Kaunda of Zambia said yesterday.

In a wide-ranging interview with the Financial Times, the President described the pact as "a setback for all of us." He repeated his willingness to host a meeting between front-line leaders and Mr P. W. Botha, South Africa's Prime Minister, and he accused the West of moving

away from its commitment to the UN independence plan for Namibia (South West Africa).

During his 20 years in office, the President has played a key role in the resolution of conflicts in Angola, Mozambique and Zimbabwe. But he presented a bleak assessment of the front-line states' capacity to bring about reform in South Africa.

The strength of Pretoria, supported by Western investors and Western governments, was overwhelming he said. "There is no country in Africa today that can stand up to these forces."

Dr Kaunda's evaluation of the pact is likely to anger President Samora Machel of Mozambique who has presented the agreement as a "victory" and attended the televised signing ceremony with his South African counterpart.

Dr Kaunda stressed that he fully understood the military and economic factors which brought Mozambique to the conference table. He supported President Machel in his decision, he said, but went on: "We would be less than honest if we tried to glorify the situation. It is not glorifiable. We accept we are weak... if we glorify this (pact) we will be making a tactical error."

The adverse implications of the pact for southern Africa were profound, he said, and he cited the nine-member Southern Africa Development Co-ordination Conference (SADCC) launched in 1980 with the objectives of reducing trade and transport links with South Africa.

"At SADCC summits we have consistently condemned apartheid. How are we going to do that without condemning Mozambique when we meet next? It is a real problem, over a whole range of subjects - SADCC, the Preferential Trading Agreement for Africa, the Organisation of African Unity."

What advice, the President was asked, would he give to the banned African National Congress (ANC) of South Africa, which in terms of the pact is now banned from conducting any military activity in Mozambique, formerly a key staging post in attacks on South African targets? "There can be no advice to give," the president said.

Dr Kaunda, referring to a pledge to increase support for the ANC, made at a front-line summit in Maputo two years ago, said: "For reasons completely beyond our con-

trol, we are unable to fulfil that... Forces far more powerful than humble us have taken over control of the situation in southern Africa. We have to find our own level first of all before we begin advising the ANC."

Last month, President Kaunda proposed a front-line summit with Mr Botha. Asked what it would achieve, the President replied: "Let's meet and let him know that at least from us he has nothing to fear, because we have no armies to march on South Africa, although he still continues to behave as if he was expecting armies from here. Whether that could bring anything worthwhile I do not know, but at least we will have done something."

Zambia would not sign a non-aggression pact with South Africa, he said. "Who are we? We cannot invade South Africa, so I do not see any reason why we should enter into a pact." Zambia already restricts the ANC to a diplomatic presence in Lusaka.

The President declared that an "explosion" in South Africa was inevitable within three or four years, with repercussions for the whole region.