

# Pact puts the squeeze on ANC in Mozambique <sup>GN</sup> 16/4/84

From Joseph Hanlon  
in Maputo

Twenty-five members of the African National Congress left Maputo at the weekend for Dar-es-Salaam. They are the first of at least 200 adults and 50 children who are leaving Mozambique after the signing last month of a nonaggression pact between Mozambique and South Africa.

There are reports here of similar expulsions of ANC members in Swaziland. Swaziland and South Africa secretly signed a similar nonaggression pact in February, 1982.

Under the pact, Mozambique agreed to limit the guerrilla and propaganda activities of the ANC, although it has been permitted to maintain its office here, which is being upgraded to the status of a diplomatic mission. Mozambique limited the size of the mission to 10 people, and rejected four from the first list proposed by the ANC.

In addition, about 15 ANC

members who are teachers or technicians employed by the Mozambican Government will remain. Four top officials, including its president, Mr Oliver Tambo, and Secretary-general, Mr Alfred Nzo, have been assured that they have continued free access to Mozambique.

Finally, a special exception has been made for Mr Joe Slovo. South Africa alleges that Mr Slovo directs the ANC's armed struggle, and in the early stages of the negotiations for the nonaggression pact it made issue of Mr Slovo's expulsion. Frelimo resisted, apparently because it did not want to be seen to buckle under to South African pressure. But Mr Slovo is not being made to feel at home, and Frelimo appears to hope that he will leave voluntarily.

All other ANC members in Mozambique have been given a choice of leaving or of going into refugee camps run by the United Nations High Commis-

sion for Refugees. They have refused to go into ordinary refugee camps, and so about 200 adults (mostly ANC but including some Mozambican spouses) and about 50 children are leaving for Tanzania and Ethiopia.

As part of the nonaggression pact restrictions on the recruitment of guerrillas, Mozambique has told the ANC that it cannot be allowed any access to refugee camps. This is in sharp contrast to the present position under which refugees are generally assisted by the ANC and integrated into the community or into ANC-run farms.

Indeed, under the new system, any South African refugee who says he wants to join the ANC will not be allowed to remain in Mozambique, and will be sent on immediately to a third country. These restrictions have surprised the ANC. Even when the pact was signed on March 16, it was assumed that only guerrillas would have

to leave Mozambique, and that refugees would be allowed to remain in ANC-run centres in the north of the country.

Patrick Laurence adds in Johannesburg: Hundreds of Swazi police scoured the country yesterday in their hunt for three fugitive members of the African National Congress after a shootout on Saturday between police and ANC men, in which a senior Swazi policeman was killed.

First reports said that an ANC man also died in the gun-battle, but this was denied by the Swaziland deputy police commissioner, Mr Edgar Hillary.

The killing of the policeman — he was shot as police closed in to arrest ANC men they believed had surrendered — is certain to lead to the deportation of dozens of ANC members, if not all its members in Swaziland.

Even before the weekend killing, relations between the two sides were so tense that the ANC's Lusaka office issued a

statement last week expressing its concern at the expected expulsion of scores of its members in Swaziland and fear that some might be handed over to the South African police.

Police have been rounding up ANC members for the past week, with 24 arrests, eight of whom have already appeared in court on charges of unlawful possession of arms.

Nine of the 24 were arrested on Saturday at the site of the dawn gun battle near the Swazi town of Manzini. The nine were part of a band of 12 ANC men at a house, three of whom escaped.

The immediate cause of the crisis in relations between the Swazi authorities and the ANC was the influx of armed ANC fighters into Swaziland from neighbouring Mozambique after the signing on March 16 of the Nkomati peace accord between South Africa and Mozambique. This commits both parties not to allow their territory to be used by anti-government rebels.