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What's in it for us?

FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT IN MAPUTO

Two months after signing a non-aggression treaty with South Africa, Mozambique is feeling aggrieved. It has expelled some 800 members of South Africa's black anti-apartheid movement, the African National Congress, reducing the ANC to a 10-man office in Maputo. But the South African-backed guerrillas of the Mozambique National Resistance have actually stepped up their activities since the Nkomati accord was signed on March 16th. The MNR has extended its operations into two new provinces, Maputo in the south and Nampula in the north, and is now threatening to isolate the city of Maputo itself. Only Cabo Delgado province, on the Tanzanian border, is still untroubled.

There is no doubt that the Mozambican rebels are still being supplied and reinforced from outside. Most officials in Maputo suspect freelance agents in South Africa. Some wonder whether elements in the South African armed forces are refusing to abandon their friends in the MNR. "We don't suspect the South African government", one senior official said, "but in setting up these *bandidos* South Africa created something it is now finding hard to control."

Mozambique's reluctance to accuse South Africa of failing to live up to its side of the bargain reflects its fears. It is in dire straits economically and is looking to South Africa as its most likely source of relief. A new agreement, negotiated in March, for the supply to South Africa of electricity from the huge Cabora Bassa power station on the Zambezi river will bring Mozambique an additional £11m a

year in hard currency.

Now Mozambique is looking for other deals, and to get them it is prepared to set aside its distaste for apartheid and to bend its own Marxist-Leninist system. It is not only ready to invite South African companies to set up agro-industry projects alongside its own state farms; it will even allow white Transvaal farmers to rent land in Mozambique.

Maputo, which is the closest harbour to the heavily industrialised Witwatersrand region of South Africa, handled 7m tons of South African traffic a year in Portuguese colonial times. With independence and the installing of the strongly anti-apartheid regime of President Samora Machel, South Africa began to reduce its use of Maputo. Last year Maputo transhipped only 1.1m tons of South African goods; black Africa's biggest port was down to less than 30% of capacity.

Mozambique is counting on the "Nkomati atmosphere" to restore the South African traffic through Maputo to pre-independence levels within two years. It is also hoping for further Nkomati fallout, such as a doubling of the number of Mozambicans working in South African gold and coal mines. South Africa used to employ 120,000 Mozambican miners; now there are only 40,000. After independence South Africa stopped an arrangement whereby 60% of the wages remitted by these miners was transferred to the Portuguese government in gold at the then official price of \$42 an ounce. Portugal made big profits selling the gold at the much higher world price. Mozambique would like to see some form of advantageous remittance system reinstated.

In the old days 500,000 South Africans used to flock to Mozambique's Indian Ocean resorts every year, bringing in £7m a year. Mozambique wants to revive its tourist industry but this will depend on eliminating the guerrillas and will require a lot of refurbishing of run-down facilities, from dockside cranes to holiday hotels. Already Afrikaans can be heard mingling with Russian in the lobbies of Maputo's Polana hotel, as contracting companies send in their survey teams.

Mozambique is expecting a lot from its apartheid neighbour. Too much?

