

Mozambique claims Pretoria never intended to keep pact

By Jonathan Steele

Mozambique has evidence that the South African military never intended to honour the nonaggression pact between the two countries, and deliberately resupplied rebel forces with large amounts of arms just before the pact was signed at Nkomati.

This was announced yesterday by Mozambique's Security Minister, Mr Sergio Vieira, at a press conference in Maputo at which he released details of a captured diary belonging to a member of the National Resistance Movement (Renamo).

The South African Government recently admitted that it has continued to supply Renamo, a group created by the Rhodesian leader, Mr Ian Smith. But the new revelations in Maputo show that South Africa's violations were premeditated.

The diary was found when Mozambican and Zimbabwean forces captured Renamo's headquarters for the central and northern parts of the country at Gorongosa.

It records a meeting on February 23, last year, between Mr Afonso Dhlakama, Renamo's military leader, and

a South African general of military intelligence, a month before the Nkomati accord was signed. The South Africans are quoted as saying: "We soldiers will continue to give support without the consent of our politicians in massive numbers so as to win the war."

The diary links the training of two Renamo agents in secret communication with Pretoria to the Minister of Defence, General Magnus Malan. "The general will ensure resupply even after the agreement by South Africa with the communist Machel, especially ammunition and radio transmitters," it says.

Mr Vieira said there had been a "gentleman's agreement" with South Africa during the run-up to Nkomati whereby neither Maputo nor Pretoria would infiltrate men and equipment. The diary entry for January 16 last year shows that South Africa broke this also, providing six months' supplies of arms and ammunition.

The diary also seems to show that Renamo's men were used by South Africa in Angola and Namibia.

Mr Vieira said that in the joint security commission set up by Nkomati accord, Mozam-

bique had continually denounced the violations, but South Africa claimed to have cut its links with Renamo.

Even after South Africa's recent admissions of continuing links with Renamo it had continued to violate Mozambique's sovereignty. "Four days ago, in the zone of Changalane, near the frontier with South Africa, the local people informed us that three helicopters came from South Africa in the night, landed, and left again," Mr Vieira said.

Despite the apparently new evidence of South Africa's disrespect for the accord, Mr Vieira made it clear that Mozambique would not abrogate the treaty. Instead, it would use the treaty as a lever to press South Africa's Western friends, particularly Britain and the United States, to restrain Pretoria.

He added that it was "almost impossible" for the joint security commission set up at Nkomati to go on functioning. As for the economic commissions, these could only make progress if there was peace. You can't make a power line function if one of the parties to the agreement decides it's going to sabotage it," he said.