

SA offensive

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THERE are highly disturbing reports of hundreds of MNR bandits being returned to Mozambique by sea from South Africa. There is once more a South African military push from the south in Angola.

Zambia recently complained of threatening boer troop movements along its border with occupied Namibia and here, in Zimbabwe, bandit activities have increased enough to warrant special deployments of troops in places such as Rushinga to protect civilians.

There is absolutely no doubt that South Africa has upped the ante. The confirmation came from no less a person than General Magnus Malan, the racist regime's defence minister, who recently stated that his government in principle supported any anti-communist movement in the region.

Communism has been given a wide interpretation by the South Africans for the sake of confusing the real issue. It carries them favour with rabidly anti-communist Western governments and provides the perfect pretext for the apartheid regime to destabilise its black neighbours by training and funding rebel movements.

It may be remembered that each time General Malan has made threats his forces have followed these up with some action.

Was it a mere coincidence that a few days after he threatened Samora Machel for "mis-interpreting" the Nkomati Accord the Mozambican leader perished in a plane crash?

South African state terrorism seems to have become dangerously accepted as a way of life in this region. It is a fact that such activities threaten world peace.

We have seen how regional wars have threatened to escalate into monumental conflicts involving the world's most powerful nations. Indeed, the marathon Gulf War has inexorably drawn the big powers closer to contact. American, British, Soviet and French warships are now plying the narrow Gulf straits, some virtually in search of action.

It would, of course, ice South Africa's cake if there were overt big power rivalries in Southern Africa, as there is no doubt who would be in the racist regime's corner fighting the "more important" threat of communism.

But where would that leave South Africa itself? Obviously in ashes, as it is unable to conduct its destabilisation by remote control. The greater threat to the regime is from a mass uprising of the millions of frustrated black citizenry. That is bound to happen as long as apartheid exists, no matter how much violence South Africa exports to its neighbours.