

Complaints of air space penetration

Own Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — The outcome of an investigation into complaints by South Africa's neighbours that South African military aircraft had conducted a series of unexplained penetrations of their air space could be released today, diplomatic and SA Defence Force sources said yesterday.

Department of Foreign Affairs spokesman Mr Jaques Malan yesterday confirmed that Angola, Namibia, Botswana and Zimbabwe had all made complaints in recent weeks about overflights which they saw take place without requests for permission.

The results of the investigation conducted by the SA Air Force and the Department of Civil Aviation into the allegations would be made public either today or tomorrow, he said.

Although Angolan authorities had complained a month ago, Mr Malan said the charges had not been detailed and had therefore been difficult to investigate. The enquiry had been helped by more detailed reports from the other countries involved.

Sapa reports a diplomatic source saying Zimbabwe had protested against more than 20 intrusions by military planes, and Namibian and Botswanan complaints referred to high overflights by large aircraft in the first 15 days of October.

The Angolan government has protested officially that SA military aircraft flew secret missions in support of Mr Jonas Savimbi's Unita movement since it lost elections at the end of September.