

# Defecting pilot 'joins Mozambique rebels'

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

A Mozambican fighter pilot who defected to South Africa last year and was for a time employed in a civilian capacity by the South African Defence Force, has been photographed with leaders of the rebel movement fighting the Mozambique government of President Samora Machel.

The photographs, supposedly showing Lieutenant Adriano Bomba attending a conference of the Mozambique National Resistance (MNR) inside Mozambique, were obtained by *The Star* newspaper of Johannesburg from MNR sources in Lisbon.

A Defence Force spokesman said that Lieutenant Bomba, who flew a Mozambique Air Force MiG17 to South Africa in July last year and asked for political asylum, had left the employ of the army at the end of April this year, and that nothing had been known of his whereabouts since then.

Despite this disclaimer the pictures, which show Lieutenant Bomba and his brother, Boaventure, who defected a few days later, sitting at a table with Mr Afonso Dhlakama, the leader of the MNR, are seen as further evidence of South Africa's close links with the Mozambique rebels.