

The Natal Witness

Friday, September 20, 1985

Violation

"In humble submission to Almighty God", runs the preamble to the Republic of South Africa Constitution Act of 1983. "We declare that we . . . are convinced of the necessity of . . . pursuing the following national goals: to uphold Christian values and civilised norms . . . ; to safeguard the integrity and freedom of our country." The English text of that Act was signed by the State President.

In 1984 the heads of government of South Africa and Mozambique signed the Accord of Nkomati. Article One of that solemn agreement reads thus:

"The high contracting parties undertake to respect each other's sovereignty and independence and, in fulfilment of this fundamental obligation, to refrain from interfering in the internal affairs of the other."

The Government of the Republic of South Africa has now conceded that the Accord of Nkomati has been violated from the Republic's side. The South African Defence Force has, with the knowledge of the Minister of Defence, aided and assisted the Renamo rebels, although the Minister had denied this in Parliament. A Deputy Minister of the State has, with the knowledge and approval of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, made clandestine visits to Renamo camps. The Ministers responsible for the conduct of the affairs of State have done more than violate the Accord of Nkomati. They have violated the integrity of the Republic of South Africa.