Gorongoza documents a fake, claims Viljoen

By Gerald L'Ange, The Star's
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The Gorongoza documents produced by Maputo as evidence of South African breaches of the Nkomati Accord have been denounced as false by the Chief of the South African armed forces, General Constand Viljoen.

The general claimed last Tu-sday at a news conference at defence headquarters in Pretoria that the original Vaz diary captured in the fall of the Mozambique National Resistance headquarters at Gorongoza was. doctored in Maputo in an attempt to discredit the South African Defence Force.

He suggested that untruths and half-truths had been blended with the original diary in "a textbook case" of distortion for propaganda purposes. He suggested the diary had been falsified with the aid of specialists from Soviet bloc countries.

General Viljoen denied that the SADF had given the MNR covert military support in contravention of the Nkomati Accord, as alleged in the Vaz diary and other documents purportedly captured at Gorongoza.

He said the SADF had taken the view that there could be no military solution to the conflict in Mozambique and the only permanent solution was through talks between the Frelimo government and the MNR.

General Viljoen was asked about the Mozambique claim that the SADF had given the MNR large arms supplies shortly before the signing of the Nkomati Accord in contravention of a "gentleman's agreement" that this would not be done. He said the SADF had been told it could carry on with normal support for the MNR until there was finality on the accord. After the signing of the accord, he said, the SADF had complied with "definite instructions" to stop supporting the rebels.

Asked whether he agreed with Mr Pik Botha's admission that there had been "technical" breaches of the Nkomati Accord by South Africa, General Viljoen said: "No, I don't think it was a technical breach." There had certainly been no breaches of the spirit of the agreement, he added.