

Maputo speaks to West ^{Star} 4/11/81

The Star Bureau
LONDON — Mozambique wants "lasting peace" in southern Africa and will continue working for this in spite of South African aggression, says Mr F Honwana, Special Assistant to President Samora Machel.

At a meeting of the Royal Commonwealth Society in London on Monday, Mr Honwana said South Africa was waging a campaign of destabilisation and terror in Mozambique by supporting the

resistance movement there.

"We will not declare war on South Africa. We are hoping for peace although we are preparing for any eventuality," he said.

He said the Mozambique Government was concerned by the West's attitude and its support for South Africa.

He urged Britons to formulate a "new approach" to Mozambique. "Do not fall into the trap of seeing everything we do as part of the East-West confrontation.

"Do not assume we are puppets of the Soviets. It is important to assume that we are doing what we want to do — build a socialist economy — and not what we have been forced to do."

Mr Honwana said his government was trying to cope with the shortage of skilled manpower and to build up the country's economy.

"We have launched a large-scale training programme and we are looking for companies to invest in the country," he said.