

Maputo fears Matola-style

By JOSE CAETANO

THERE is disquiet in Maputo over recent warnings that Pretoria will not tolerate the concentration of sophisticated weapons in Mozambique or ANC operations from that country.

The warnings raise fears that another Matola-like raid is a distinct possibility.

The latest South African warning came in a strongly worded statement last Friday night by Mr Pik Botha, Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Recently President Samora Machel referred to some of the South African warnings in a speech made to a closed session of Frelimo's central committee.

He said: "No sensible person could think that an under-developed country like ours could threaten the sovereignty, territorial integrity or stability of any state, especially a power like South Africa."

"The South African whites are not our enemy. They are not foreigners in their country or continent. They are African people, like us.

"It was racism that deformed the mentality of South African whites, that led them to cast themselves in the role of 'chosen people'.

"For this reason, it is the South African whites themselves who are the victims of their complexes and prejudices. They are the very ones who cut themselves off from the community of all South Africans and set themselves apart as a privileged minority, as a superior race to be preserved.

"Our enemy is apartheid. The destruction of the stronghold of apartheid will come from inside the South African society."

In his speech he also accused South Africa of launching what he called "a campaign of international terrorism against Mozambique" in a clear reference to the activities of the so-called Mozambique National Resistance which Maputo alleges is supported and armed by South Africa.

The question of Mozambique's attitude to South Africa is due to be discussed during the fourth congress of Frelimo in Maputo next April.