

Mail Correspondent

CAPE TOWN. — Further contacts between South Africa and Mozambique over regional security have been promised by the Prime Minister, Mr P W Botha.

The Government is also clearly giving top-level attention to the prospects for a settlement of the South West Africa dispute and the related question of the Cuban military presence in Angola.

Mr Botha yesterday took the unusual step of issuing a statement following a meeting of the State Security Council (SSC) in Cape Town.

He said regular members of the SSC and "a considerable number" of Cabinet Ministers attended the meeting, which was largely confined to a report by the Foreign Minister, Mr Pik Botha, on his recent European visit and "the most important events in Southern Africa" over the past few weeks.

Attention was also given to proposals which emerged from this week's meeting in Swaziland between South African Cabinet Ministers and Mozambique representatives, his statement said.

"Certain decisions were taken in this regard and will be conveyed to the Mozambique government," Mr Botha stated. His announcement of a large Cabinet presence at the SSC meeting is seen as indicative of the importance of developments.

Mr Pik Botha's recent

PW promises more contact with Maputo

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European tour seems to have concentrated on the stalled SWA settlement initiative. He held talks in several European capitals, meeting members of the Western Contact Group.

Mr Botha also travelled to Rome for a special meeting with the top United States negotiator on the issue, Dr Chester Crocker. It is the outcome of these talks which would have been conveyed to the SSC yesterday.

The Mozambique issue came to the fore during this visit, with Portugal pressing for less hostility between South Africa and Mozambique and offering to host a meeting.

In the end, Swaziland was chosen as neutral territory. Mr Pik Botha, accompanied by the Defence Minister, General Magnus Malan, and the Minister of Law and Order, Mr Louis le Grange,

met Mozambique Cabinet Ministers.

Their discussions followed South African military raids into Mozambique against South Africa describes as African National Congress bases, and Mozambique accusations that South Africa actively supported so-called Mozambique National Resistance (MNR) rebels seeking to overthrow President Samora Machel's government.

Mr Pik Botha was expected to repeat the South African Government's offer of a non-aggression pact with Mozambique, under which the two countries would undertake not to harbour rebel groups.

Yesterday's statement gave no clues about whether the conclusion of such a pact — the first such treaty with a Frontline state — is in the offing.