

Top-level meetings pave way for new ties

# SA, Maputo in anti-terror pact

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AFTER eight hours of discussions, top-level South African and Mozambican delegates agreed at security talks in Pretoria yesterday that neither state should serve as a springboard for violence against the other.

And, in separate talks in Maputo, the scene was set for talks in Lisbon between South Africa, Mozambique and Portugal on the Cahora Bassa hydro-electric scheme — and for further talks between South Africa and Mozambique on economic matters.

A short communique was issued on the Pretoria talks last night.

The communique said: "Following a meeting in Swaziland on December 12 between Ministers of both countries, delegations met at Pretoria yesterday for discussion on practical ways and means of achieving peace and security and good relationships between the two countries on the basis of internationally established principles of relations between sovereign states."

It added: "They considered measures to be taken in order that the territories of neither state should serve as a springboard for aggression and violent action against the other. They also discussed practical mechanisms to ensure the implementation of the objective as well as the continuity of the process."

The delegations will report to their respective Governments.

Discussions in Maputo yesterday went without any major hitches and the mood in the South African camp was one of confidence that the foundation had been laid for the restoration of the close economic ties which once existed between the two countries.

The entry of Portugal into talks on Cahora Bassa flows from Portugal's administration of the scheme and its huge financial stake of about R740-million in it. The complex was constructed during Portugal's colonial rule of Mozambique.

Sabotage of Cahora Bassa by allegedly

South African-backed insurgents of the Mozambique National Resistance (MNR) means that it cannot sell electricity to South Africa, which delays redemption by Mozambique of the R740-million debt to Portugal.

Portugal, a major victim of the sabotage, played a key role in initiating the rapprochement between South Africa and Mozambique when the Foreign Minister, Mr Pik Botha, visited Portugal late last year.

It began with the pre-Christmas meeting in Swaziland between the South African and Mozambican teams and was further consolidated in Maputo yesterday.

The anticipated next round of bilateral talks on economic matters will probably see South African participation at Ministerial level, official sources said yesterday.

The vital security talks between South Africa and Mozambique began just before 11am behind closed doors at a Government guest house — barely an hour after the arrival from Maputo of the Mozambique delegates.

The South African delegation was led by Lieutenant-General Johan Coetzee, Commissioner of Police, while the Mozambican delegation was led by Colonel José Oscar Monteiro, Minister of Justice and member of Frelimo's 11-man Political Bureau.

A source in the Mozambican delegation to the Pretoria talks told journalists on their arrival in Maputo last night that the talks had been "highly positive and constructive", but that there was still "a lot to be done".

The delegation arrived back in the Mozambican capital at 7.30pm on board their special aircraft from Pretoria.

In Maputo the South Africa delegation on Cahora Bassa and other economic matters was led by the Director-General of Foreign Affairs, Mr Han Van Dalsen. The Mozambican team was headed by Major-General Jacinto Veloso, Minister in the Presidency for Economic Affairs.

Leaders of the teams in the talks on tourism were Mr Danie Hough, chairman of the SA Tourism Board, and Mr Antonio Materrula, Mozambique Secretary of State for Tourism.

The talks on economic matters started with a plenary session but later delegates broke into smaller teams to discuss transport, migrant labour (there are about 61 000 Mozambican contract workers in South Africa legally and an unknown number of