

# Pretoria violated Nkomati again last week

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SOUTH African violations of the Nkomati non-aggression accord signed with Mozambique in March 1984 have continued right up to last week.

Asked on Monday if there was evidence of South African violations since the MNR headquarters in Gorongosa was overrun in late August, Mozambican Security Minister Cde Sergio Vieira revealed that helicopters from South Africa violated Mozambican airspace last week. "Just four days ago, in

the zone of Changalane, near the frontier with South Africa, the local people informed us that three helicopters came from South Africa in the night, landed and left again."

Colonel Vieira was replying to questions at the end of a Press conference in which he had shown journalists documents captured from the MNR which proved South

Africa's failure to respect the Nkomati accord.

Asked if this would lead Mozambique to abrogate the accord, the minister quoted President Samora Machel's words on his recent American tour. "The President pointed out that we have three alternatives — to abrogate the accord, to renegotiate with South Africa, or to do nothing," said Col Vieira.

"We think that it is the duty of all statesmen to create a situation which leads the South African government to take a serious and responsible attitude towards the obligations it has undertaken," he said. "That is our central concern. The question of abrogating the agreement or not is secondary."

Asked if the breaches of the accord were just

the work of the South African military, or if they had approval from the highest level of the Pretoria government, the minister said:

"You had better ask the South African government that." He pointed out, however, that "it is indisputable that the government is responsible for the actions of its armed forces".

He also disclosed that other documents captured by the Mozambican forces, but not shown to the journalists, implicated

● To Page 5

HERALD 2.10.85

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## ● From Page 1

other countries in support of the MNR, but declined to name the other countries involved.

"Other countries do have some responsibility for this war, but the main responsibility lies with South Africa," he added. "We signed the Nkomati accord with South Africa and not with anybody else."

Col Vieira denied reports that talks were about to start between a medium-level Mozambican delegation and MNR members. "What is

there to talk about?" he asked.

"We have already negotiated with South Africa," he continued, "and the bandits have never been anything more than an appendix of the South African armed forces. You don't talk to the corporal when you can talk to the general."

Answering a South African journalist who asked what possible motive the South African regime could have for endangering an accord which was viewed as one of its major diplomatic triumphs, the minister

pointed to the existence of "adventurers, of people who like military action, people who want to impose their point of view by violence on everyone else".

"When you read the documents, you will see that the leitmotif is an anti-communist crusade".

This was true of all the South African leaders whose discussions with the MNR are documented — including chief of the armed forces, General Constand Viljoen, the head of military intelligence, General van

der Westhuizen, and deputy foreign minister Louis Nel.

"They talk of fighting the communist in Mozambique," said the minister. "This gives a kind of ideology to the bandits, a kind of respectable cloak. They are said to be fighting for the West against the sinister communists."

Infringements of the Nkomati Accord by the South African military were being investigated. Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ron Miller said in Port Elizabeth yesterday. — Ziana-AIM.