

## The plot thickens

Government this week sank deeper in the morass of its duplicitous dealings with Mozambique. Apart from further evidence from Maputo of violations of the Nkomati Accord and the SADF's opposition to it, new evidence that senior officials connected to the State Security Council were until very recently involved in a disinformation campaign against the Frelimo government has now been exposed.

Mozambique Security Minister Sergio Vieira handed copies of documents and diaries captured at the main base of the Mozambique National Resistance (MNR) to journalists in Maputo this week proving SA's various violations of the Accord over the last 18 months.

Vieira said three SA Air Force helicopters made a trip to the Chagalane area inside Mozambique only last week.

Some of the entries in the diaries kept for MNR leader Afonso Dlakhamu defy comprehension:

□ Colonel Charles van Niekerk of Military Intelligence boasted that they would bug a conference between Foreign Minister Pik Botha and the Frelimo government in September last year and presumably pass the information on to the MNR;

□ SADF chief general Constand Viljoen told the MNR at a Pretoria meeting the same month that Botha was "deceitful" and that they should not be fooled by his schemes. He advised them not to accept Botha and Frelimo's offer of amnesty; and □ In May this year Viljoen is reported as having said that he and his colleagues would resign if they were ordered to fight the MNR.

Two weeks ago officials connected to the State Security Council, the highest decision-making body in SA, tried to give the Afrikaans daily *Beeld* an "exclusive scoop" on the lines that the Zimbabwean troops fighting the MNR in Mozambique were planning a coup during President Samora Machel's absence in the US.

When *Beeld* took the story to senior government sources it became clear that it was a propaganda ploy to embarrass Machel and to try to prevent him from going to the US. "Fortunately there was swift action against

the culprits and a top officer has unexpectedly retired early," wrote *Beeld* assistant editor Piet Muller in his political column.

A spokesman for the SSC secretariat tells the *FM* that he knows about Muller's article in *Beeld*, but he does not know of any officer in the secretariat that has retired recently. He also does not know of an investigation into the affair. Muller was not available for comment.

Meanwhile State President P W Botha told the NP Cape Congress he was confident the Accord of Nkomati could be maintained if both sides were prepared to carry out both the spirit and the letter of the accord. He said he believed General Viljoen when he denied having broken the accord.

"Whatever you say of him, you can surely say that he is an honourable and brave officer. I asked him in front of witnesses whether he was guilty of transgressing the accord. He denied it and assured me that he kept to the government's decisions. I believe General Viljoen and no communist attempt to discredit him or former deputy Foreign Minister Louis Nel will succeed."

Botha said SA "kept faithfully" to the accord and went further in efforts to bring the MNR and Frelimo together. ■

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