

Pretoria Acknowledges Aiding Mozambican Rebels, Despite Treaty

By Michael Parks
Los Angeles Times Service

JOHANNESBURG — South Africa, despite its nonaggression treaty with Mozambique, has continued to support the anti-government rebels of the Mozambican National Resistance with weapons and ammunition, other air-dropped supplies and transport, according to Foreign Minister R. F. Botha.

After months of disputing Mozambique's charges that South Africa was guilty of violations of the March 1984 Nkomati Accord in its support of the rightist Mozambican National Resistance, Mr. Botha acknowledged Wednesday that the Mozambican "allegations in broad terms are correct, and that the Nkomati Accord was violated."

The admission, further damaging South Africa's image as a trustworthy partner in international affairs, appeared to be motivated by the expectation that the leader of Mozambique, President Samora Machel, will present extensive documentary evidence of the violations to President Ronald Reagan during his current visit to the United States.

Despite criticism from U.S. conservatives, the Reagan administration is supplying Mr. Machel's Marxist regime with \$40 million in economic aid, as part of an effort to

lure Mozambique from the embrace of the Soviet Union.

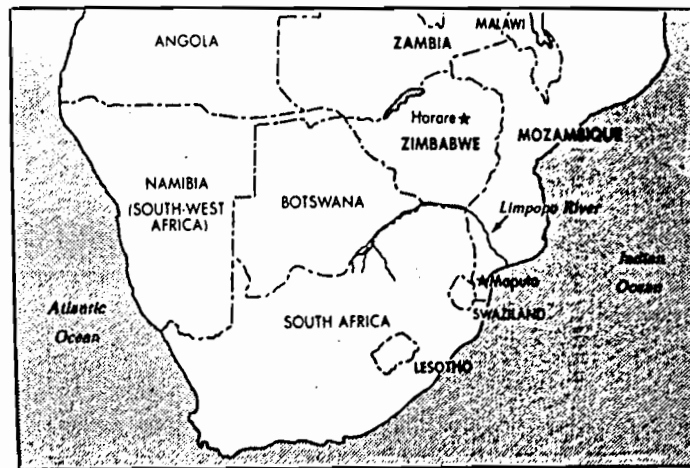
[Mr. Machel, after a meeting with Mr. Reagan, said Thursday that his country welcomed U.S. government and private sector involvement in assisting his country's development, The Associated Press reported from Washington.

[With Mr. Reagan standing at his side, Mr. Machel said that he believed his two-hour meeting with Mr. Reagan "established a solid basis for long-term cooperation in all fields" between the two countries. Mr. Reagan praised Mozambique's moves toward accommodation with South Africa after years of hostility.]

The Nkomati Accord, which was brokered behind the scenes by U.S. diplomats and has been one of the few clear successes of the Reagan administration's policy of "constructive engagement," is now very much in doubt. However, Mr. Botha indicated that a major effort is under way to salvage it.

Mr. Botha, speaking in Pretoria, implied that the country's military forces, which had built up the Mozambican National Resistance into a guerrilla force of 15,000 before the Nkomati Accord, were solely responsible for the violations. Gen. Magnus Malan, the defense minister, had accepted responsibility for the actions, Mr. Botha said.

The continued South African support had included the supply of weapons and ammunition on a regular basis; establishment of a communications network; deliveries of "humanitarian aid," such as food



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and medicine; construction of landing strips and other facilities at guerrilla bases and air and sea transport, Mr. Botha said. There was at least one trip by submarine for guerrilla leaders, he said.

In addition, Louis M. Nel, the deputy foreign minister, made three secret visits over the last three months to guerrilla headquarters at Gorongosa in central Mozambique, although such contacts had been explicitly denied, both publicly and in diplomatic meetings with Mozambique.

The attacks by guerrillas, apparently mounted with South African support, have virtually paralyzed Mozambique for the past year, cutting off the capital and major cities from the countryside and preventing the shipment of food and consumer goods. Until it received help recently from Zimbabwe, the government had been unable to check the spread of the insurgency.

South Africa has consistently denied all allegations of such activities, except for some clandestine support that five army officers had given to the rightists.

But Mozambique found extensive documentation that included a



Camera Press

R.F. Botha

senior officer's operational diary, headquarters day books, itineraries of trips by officials to South Africa over the past two years, radio logs and supply records when its troops, supported by Zimbabwe forces, overran the headquarters of the guerrillas at Gorongosa late last month.

All those amounted to no more than "technical violations" of the Nkomati Accord, Mr. Botha said.