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# Pretoria bomb is just the beginning, ANC leader warns

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MR OLIVER TAMBO, leader of the African National Congress (ANC), warned over the weekend that South Africa should expect repetitions of the Pretoria bombing as part of the intensification of his organisation's campaign against white minority rule.

Mr Tambo said he could not claim responsibility for the attack, in which 17 people died and 217 were injured, until he received reports from within South Africa.

"As soon as we are absolutely sure we will make a statement to that effect," he said on Saturday.

In South Africa, whites are in a trauma of shock and rage as they absorb the implications of the country's worst terrorist assault.

It is now realised that the toll might have been much higher as hundreds of military personnel would normally gather in the street to await transport only minutes after the bomb exploded. The assumption is that the bomb had been prepared for them and might have gone off prematurely, with the result that most of the casualties were civilians.

Mr Tambo declared: "The policy of the ANC (which is banned in South Africa) is to intensify the struggle, attack the enemy, avoiding civilians where possible."

In the past, he said, the ANC had concentrated on sabotage of installations such as railways and buildings. "But intensifica-

tion involves not just sabotage, but attacking the enemy forces."

South African military raids on ANC offices near Maputo, Mozambique, in 1981, and in Maseru, Lesotho, last December, in which civilians died, had prompted this change of strategy.

When asked whether the Pretoria bombing was an example of what might be expected, he replied: "Absolutely."

Mr Tambo was also asked if Western investment would be excluded from attack. He replied: "No. Foreign firms have become militarised. Foreign capital is now part of South Africa's military might."

The first ANC reaction to Friday's blast came earlier on Saturday in a statement issued from its office in Lusaka, Zambia, which spoke of "an escalating armed struggle." The attack had been directed at a military installation, and casualties were mainly air force and military intelligence personnel, it said. But the statement did not specifically claim responsibility.

The ANC may be reluctant to make such a claim from anywhere in Africa which might be within reach of South African retaliation.

Few people in South Africa doubt that the defence and security authorities will be determined to strike back at the ANC in as dramatic and forceful a manner as possible.