

REALISM is rare enough in Africa for the Nkomati Accord between South Africa and Mozambique to be welcomed wholeheartedly.

In that little border clearing on March 16 Mozambique's President Samora Machel duly received his reward for nine years of Marxist incompetence and an illusory alliance with Russia.

From now on he toes South Africa's line on everything from trade to the suppression of the anti-apartheid fighters of the African National Congress, or faces the downfall of his government at the hands of South African-backed guerillas.

Something similar may be happening on the other side of Southern Africa. The withdrawal of South African troops from Angola, and the possible withdrawal of Cuban ones, may conceivably be leading to a settlement of the apparently endless Namibia argument. The Southern African scene could at last be reflecting the reality of military and economic power in the region.

That reality is harsh, but it is the only basis on which a workable policy can be built. For two decades the politics of the region have been distorted by fanciful predictions of continued black revolution.

Those people in the West who led South Africa's black neighbours to believe that history would deliver South Africa ripe into their hands have merely condemned them to poverty and humiliation. They have also given apartheid a stunning political coup.

After Nkomati the new realism should

UK's top news magazine, the Economist, surveys the Nkomati Accord

SA's neighbours

THE DAILY NEWS

paying for their

grand illusions

spread in both directions. The black states can concentrate less on regional revolution and more on recovering from drought and socialism in tolerant partnership with the regional superpower.

They know the alternative: another, and disastrous, bout of destabilisation by South Africa's military arm. The South Africans, in turn, have their own interest in helping their neighbours to recover from the effects of destabilisation. They need a healthy regional economic partnership.

South Africa's white minority is understandably euphoric.

The end of a costly war is in sight. The country's enemies are grovelling. After years of failed appeasement, and then more years of successful thump-and-talk, the cordon sanitaire zone represented by the Portuguese and British colonies has been all but established.

The Prime Minister, Mr P.W. Botha, has a foreign policy success to cap his victory in last November's constitutional referendum, and to wave in

the face of his critics of both left and right. He is stronger than ever.

Will Mr Botha use this strength to make political concessions to the blacks, or complacently conclude that South Africa can now snuggle back into the cushions of apartheid?

It has long been clear that apartheid has more to do with the survival instinct of South Africa's dominant white tribe than with any archaic ideology.

It derives its continuing potency both from white fear of over-rapid urbanisation by the rural black population, and from alarm at the experience of majority rule to the north.

In recent years there have been signs that classical apartheid is weakening under the pressure of economic change.

Job reservation has all but collapsed. Some bits of "petty apartheid" have been dismantled. The new constitution offers some political rights to Asians and to

mixed-race Coloured people.

Strengthened by November's overwhelming white support for his constitution, Mr Botha has set up a cabinet committee on new constitutional arrangements for urban blacks. Black unions are flourishing.

Yet these changes remain within the limits of neo-apartheid. The co-option of Coloureds, Asians and "insider blacks" has always been part of the strategy. There is no sign of an end to influx control or the Group Areas Act. Such pillars of apartheid as the Immorality and Mixed Marriages Act stand untouched.

Mr Botha's new Aliens Amendment Bill will declare that 9 million black South Africans who have been allocated to the dusty backyards mis-called "homelands" are now aliens, and they will impose swingeing fines on anybody who employs them in white areas.

There has recently been an intensification of "black spot" removals, of pass-law arrests and of political deten-

tions. It is this regulation of population movement which, in a drought-stricken region, makes neo-apartheid so heartless a policy. If anything it is being toughened.

Mr Botha's new constitution which comes into effect this year, was worth supporting not because it dismantled apartheid, which it did not, but because more involvement of Coloureds and Asians in politics (and one day some blacks) is likelier to bring change to South Africa than any plausible alternative.

Only through such change can white rule ever be diluted, and some hope of political advance be offered to the black majority.

But there should be no illusions about what the Nkomati agreement means for this hope. The easing of South Africa's foreign relations with its black neighbours is a good thing because both sides need a period of peace. There is no such convergence of interests about apartheid. To apartheid, Nkomati is an irrelevance.

Govt 'won't help'

THE major demands that progressive teachers and students call for in our education are not likely to be met by the present regime, Mr Tsietsi Maleho, a member of the Azanian Students' Organisation (Azaso) said at the weekend.

Mr Maleho was addressing a seminar of the National Education Union of South Africa (Neusa) held at Wilgerspruit. He addressed the seminar on the purpose of the Education Charter Campaign. Although the major demands would not be met, they would serve as a way of educating people about the inadequacies of the present system, he said.

Neusa has links with Azaso and the Congress of South African Students (Cosas) who are engaged in establishing Education Charter Committees at various universities, colleges and schools. Some of the demands formu-

lated in the Charter thus far are:

- Education shall be free and compulsory at primary and secondary school level;
- Teaching shall be recognised as a political activity; co-operative rather than competitive values shall be encouraged; skills rather than memorising techniques shall be taught;
- All forms of sexism in school structure and prescribed books shall be abolished;
- Ideologically undesirable books shall be eliminated from the curriculum, for example, those written by officials in the Department of Education or Broederbonders;
- Prescribed books shall be relevant to our situation;
- Teachers shall be answerable to the community and not just to the principal/inspector.

'Technicians needed'

UNIVERSITIES and technicons should teach students and stress the need for people with technical and commercial skills in the present South African labour market, Mr Barend du Plessis, Minister of Education and Training, said yesterday.

Addressing the first meeting of State Universities and Technicons Advisory Council in Pretoria, Mr du Plessis urged universities and technicons in South Africa to play an important role

in the development process of the populations of the country.

He added: "Care should, however, be taken not to emphasise higher education as a means to assist in rapid social and economic development. The experience, positive and negative of academic development in the Third World can help to guide the planning and implementation of that section of higher education in southern Africa that is still in a pattern of growth."



CONGRATS: Mr Vuyisile Zini gives his mother, Rebecca, a peck on the cheek after he was conferred with a Bachelor of Laws degree at the University of the Witwatersrand (Wits) last week. Seven black students were among 135 others who were conferred with Bachelor of Laws degrees at the university. LLB degrees, two higher degrees and 60 diplomas in the Faculty of Law were conferred on students.

Page 1 of 2

SOWETAN

27 MARCH '84



HAPPINESS IS: Obtaining a law degree. Patrick Ndou and Vasiliki Apostoleris both passed their LLB degrees at Wits University.

Koornhof slates matric results

THE private sector's massive involvement in black education has done nothing to improve the appalling black matric failure rate, Ms Hanchen Koornhof said last night.

Ms Koornhof, niece of Minister of Co-operation and Development Dr Piet Koornhof, was speaking during a panel discussion on the upgrading of teachers.

She said the private sector's involvement had improved the state of black education.

The private sector spent almost as much on education as the Government, Neusa members were told.

Ms Koornhof identified several motives for this substantial aid:

- The private sector saw education as a means to political stability and as an answer to the skills shortage;
- It drew approval from overseas-based companies and promoted foreign investment.

However, nearly all private sector money went to Soweto schools, she said. This was partly because

Soweto was recognised as one of the most politically explosive areas in the country, and partly because it was internationally known and would therefore be recognised in company reports overseas.

Ms Pippa Stein — employed by the school's English Language Research Programme (Selp) which is run by the University of the Witwatersrand — said lack of confidence was a major reason for the poor teaching in black schools.

Three quarters of Selp's work (in more than 130 higher primary schools in Soweto) was to build the teachers' confidence.

"We have to show them their opinions and work are highly valued and that what they are doing in the classroom requires a great deal of skill," she said.

All schools in Soweto used English as their medium from Standard Three upwards, yet until this year they had had no English textbooks.

"Standard Three children who cannot say 'hello, how are you' in English have to learn complex concepts in English such as the metamorphosis of the frog," said Ms Stein.

SA-Maputo treaty a bad omen for Soviets

MOSCOW. — Mozambique's treaty with South Africa has proved a signal for the Kremlin that the drive to project Soviet influence in the developing world may be losing momentum, diplomats in Moscow say.

From Latin America to Asia, Moscow's backing for national liberation movements and leftist Third World governments has been failing to yield political returns that many predicted in the 1970s, the diplomats say.

The analysts, from both Western and devel-

oping countries, attribute this to several factors, mainly economic pressures, local nationalism and a waning attraction for the Soviet Marxist-Leninist model.

A strategy for reviving Soviet fortunes in the Third World, in the face of a more assertive United States, is now one of the top priorities facing the Kremlin under Mr Konstantin Chernenko, the diplomats say.

For Moscow, Maputo's March 16 non-aggression treaty with South Africa — a state reviled in Russia as the ideological evil

of all evils — came as a severe embarrassment.

With their Marxist governments, Mozambique and Angola receive strong Soviet backing as bastions of "anti-imperialist" independence.

The United States regarded the emergence of these Marxist governments as symbolic of a Soviet drive for global expansion, also exemplified by the advances of pro-Soviet regimes in Ethiopia and Indochina.

Moscow has always argued that Soviet advisers and Cuban troops in Angola and Ethiopia

were there to help defend the two countries against threats to their independence.

The official Soviet media have blamed the Nkomati accord and Angola's recent opening contacts with South Africa and the West on a US-backed South African plot to force the two countries into submission through military and economic means.

"Strong-arm methods hardly make for durable understandings," the official weekly Novoye Vremya said.

Tass news agency said



World Spotlight

yesterday: "Tactics apart, the brutal essence of the racists and their patrons remains unchanged.

"While flirting with frontline states, including with Angola, Washington is knocking together an anti-Angolan united front of counter revolution."

Moscow has been urging Angola and Mozam-

bique to maintain full support for the ANC and Swapo.

Other reverses for the Kremlin in Africa have included Ethiopia's expulsion of Soviet diplomats for alleged espionage last month and the departure of some 10 000 Cuban personnel from the country at Ethiopia's request.

In Asia, the spread of

communist influence has flagged after the victories of Indochina in the 1970s.

Vietnam, which along with Mongolia and Cuba receives the bulk of Soviet foreign aid, is absorbing massive resources to revive its economy and maintain an allied regime in Kampuchea.

At the same time, and despite a growing Soviet military presence in the region, the economic prosperity of the Pacific basin nations have weakened the attraction of communism or closer alliances with Moscow.

India retains its position as Moscow's leading non-aligned friend after wavering in the aftermath of the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan, an event that did much to damage Moscow's standing in the Third World.

Analysts say the Kremlin still sees a big potential for gain in Iran though the Islamic fundamentalist regime has proved as hostile to the Soviet Union as to the United States.

Moscow has made its strongest recent gain in the Middle East through

the failure of Washington's involvement in Lebanon and the emergence of its ally Syria as a major regional power.

Central America is now at the focus of a Soviet diplomatic political and to some extent military effort. But a number of Western and Latin

American diplomats share the view of French President Mr Mitterrand that US policy rather than Soviet arms is pushing Nicaragua towards Moscow and boosting the fortunes of El Salvador's leftist guerillas.

Moscow argues that

the West owes the aid to the developing world because Western exploitation was the cause of all its ills. But diplomats say the flagging Soviet economy is too weak to generate the level of assistance offered by the West.

"When it comes down to it, it's not the ideology that counts, it's who can pay the bills," one Western diplomat said.

The treaty between impoverished Mozambique and its rich southern neighbour proved the point, he added. — Sapa-
Reuter