

# The Daily News

## US commitment

THE American Government's decision to give Mozambique limited military assistance illustrates how dramatically relationships have shifted in Southern Africa. Ten years ago an independent Mozambique was widely regarded as a communist beachhead; today a conservative American government that maintains cordial relations with South Africa can also wish to prop up Mozambique militarily. To distort somewhat the old Chinese expression: Can my friend's friend be my enemy?

South Africa should welcome the development, not just as a further indication of waning Soviet influence in the region but as an American commitment in support of the Nkomati Accord, which

shows signs of faltering in the face of renewed activity by Mozambique rebels. The Accord gives substance to the new and constructive regional relationship and it would be disastrous if it were allowed to disintegrate.

South Africa should redouble attempts to secure a compromise between President Machel's government and the rebels. It should ensure that South African territory or facilities are in no way used by private individuals to further the rebel cause. And if government circles should still contain people who take comfort from disorder in Mozambique and are disinclined to prevent it, the new American commitment should be enough to prove how shortsightedly foolish they are.

## Peculiar affair

WHETHER or not Dr Allan Boesak, president of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches, is involved in an extra-marital relationship is a matter for his family and his colleagues in religion, and maybe for the public as well, in view of his public position. Most people will bear in mind, however, that there, but for the grace of God, go a very large number of citizens whose private lives have not been forced into the public forum by the publication of anonymous pamphlets.

What should, however, concern every citizen is the suggestion that the police or

some other Government agency are responsible for using dirty tricks to create a deliberate smear against a political opponent. If this is condoned, then nobody, blameworthy or otherwise, will be able to consider himself or his reputation safe from such onslaughts.

So far the police have denied responsibility for the smear. They say they are investigating the possibility of bringing charges under the Police Act. What is needed is a full inquiry to establish the truth about this peculiar affair.

## Amazing forgetfulness

HAVING come to this country ostensibly to gauge feelings on disinvestment, Senator Edward Kennedy could hardly have missed the central point made at the Durban prayer breakfast by Chief Buthelezi, leader of the country's largest national group, that not only the Zulus but most ordinary working blacks oppose disinvestment. Having returned home the

senator reports that the only people who oppose disinvestment are white businessmen. Forgotten, it seems, are Chief Buthelezi, black business leaders and the findings of at least one respected survey to the contrary. It appears that when it comes to getting his facts straight Teddy Kennedy has not improved much with age.