

## The 23rd March Attack on Oil Depots Near Beira (ME/6077/ii)

(a) "Voice of Free Africa" in Portuguese for Mozambique 1630 gmt 26 Mar 79

Text of report:

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A war communique issued by the Mozambique national resistance movement has disclosed that the recent attack against the Beira oil depots was carried out by a special assault task force of the Mozambican resistance. The communique also indicates that the forces of the Machel regime carried out a massacre in the residential area near the oil depots. This massacre took place when Machel's forces started firing in despair.

About 48 soldiers of the so-called People's Forces for the Liberation of Mozambique (FPLM) were killed as a result of various military operations carried out by the Mozambican resistance forces. Our forces distributed pamphlets in Beira city at the time when the operation against the Munhava oil tanks was carried out.

(b) Lusaka home service in English 1115 gmt 24 Mar 79

Text of report of Kaunda's message to Machel:

A message from President Kaunda to Samora Machel says: I have heard only this morning [24th March] of yet another cowardly attack on your country by our common enemy, the racist enemy, in which you lost large stocks of valuable fuel. As always, I condemn this and all the recent criminal attacks against the life and property of the innocent people of Mozambique, and I salute your gallant troops for the defence and speedy action in repelling the enemy.

(c) Maputo in English for Rhodesia - Voice of Zimbabwe - 1800 gmt 24 Mar 79

Excerpt from report of Mugabe's statement:

The president of the Zimbabwe African National Union, ZANU, the fighting component of the Patriotic Front, Comrade Robert Mugabe, has condemned the attack on the oil storage depot in Mozambique's second largest city, Beira. In an interview with the Mozambican weekly magazine 'Tempo', the ZANU president said that the attack was aimed at destabilizing the People's Republic of Mozambique with the ultimate aim of forcing the country to reduce its support for the armed liberation struggle in Zimbabwe.