

# MACHEL CONCERNED AT NEW SA-BACKED TERROR CAMPAIGN AS INNOCENT PEOPLE ARE MAIMED

THE SOUTH African-backed Mozambican Resistance Movement (MRM) continues to be a major source of concern for President Samora Machel's Government.

The group has stepped up its terrorist attacks on Mozambican installations and on villagers who live in its "operational area", particularly along the Zimbabwean border.

Recently, close to 200 villagers fled into Eastern Zimbabwe from the town of Espangura after it had been attacked.

In the attack, a 2½-year-old girl strapped to her mother's back was shot and died as villagers fled across the border.

The mother was hit in the leg by a bullet and had emergency surgery at Mount Selinda Mission Hospital.

According to the mission doctor, the toddler bled to death after a bullet tore open an artery in her thigh.

## Lines cut

The dissidents were also behind the recent sabotage of power lines from Cabora Bassa Dam, Mozambique's multi-million hydro-power station.

The lines had been cut several times in the past resulting in large repair bills having to be met by Mozambicans.

Laying direct responsibility on the terrorist group and its allies in Pretoria, the Mozambican News Agency (AIM) said in an English language newscast: "These groups operate from bases in South Africa with the support of certain sectors of the Pretoria regime."

Reports from the Mozambique-Zimbabwe border area confirm increased South African involvement in the conflict between the organisation and FRELIMO troops.

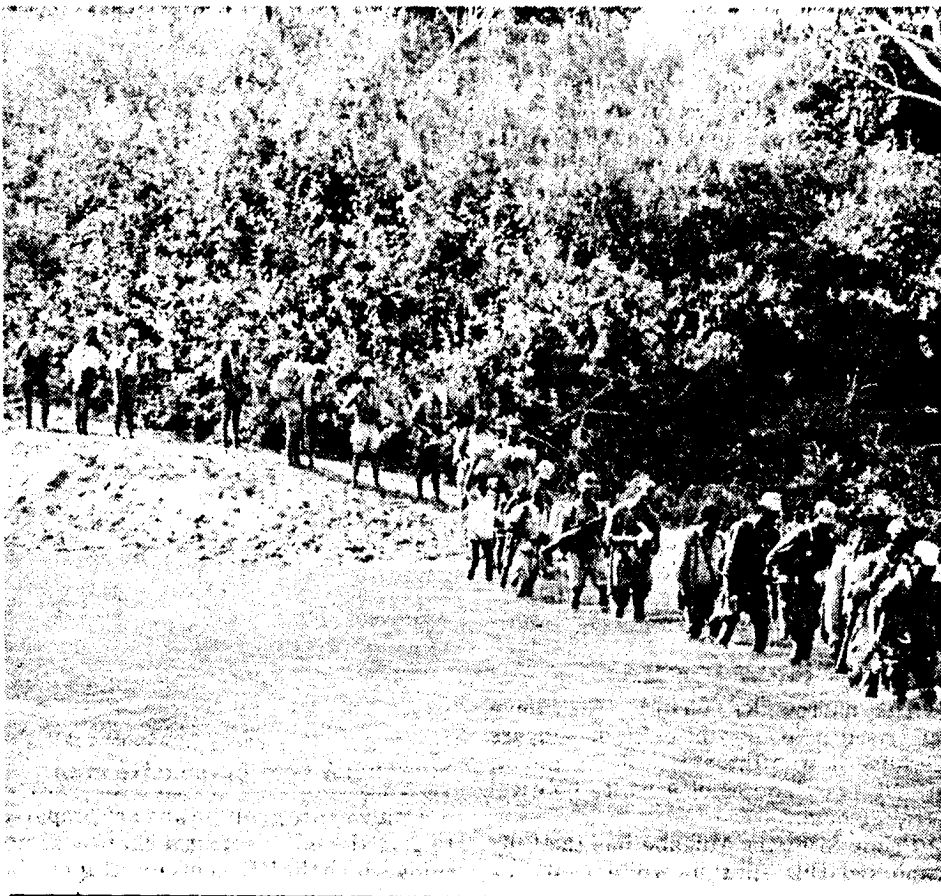
According to white farmers in the area, South African helicopters have been spotted just across the border.

The choppers usually come in during the night and seem to be operating freely, mainly due to Mozambique's lack of sufficient air power.

It is also known that Zimbabwe, which has a defence pact with Mozambique, has deployed a crack battalion of its national army to patrol the border.

Military sources confirmed in Zimbabwe that a battalion composed of former troops of the elite Rhodesian Light Infantry and former ZIPRA and ZANLA guerillas who know the terrain

A toddler strapped to her mother's back is shot by terrorists in Mozambique and bleeds to death as her wounded mother flees across the border. Just another incident lately as the MRM goes on the rampage. A *Special Correspondent* reports on an ugly scene.



well from the days of the Rhodesian liberation war, have been sent there from their base near Umtali.

This is in line with the stand taken by the Zimbabwean leader, Mr Robert Mugabe, who has declared that an attack on Mozambique is an attack on Zimbabwe.

The increasing number of visits to Zimbabwe by top Mozambican military officers suggests increasing co-operation in the border war.

Lt.-General Sebastian Mabote, the Mozambican Deputy Minister of Defence, was in Zimbabwe earlier this year. During the visit it was announced by Zimbabwe's military chief, Mr Emmer-son Mnangagwa, that 40 MRM dissidents had been captured by Zimbabwean

forces.

And during Zimbabwe's Independence celebrations in mid-April, four top Mozambican military chiefs including the Defence Minister, Lt.-General Joaquim Chipande, met in Salisbury for talks with Mnangagwa and members of Zimbabwe's Joint High Command.

The talks centred on the border situation and the 200 refugees who have since returned home.

Meanwhile, Zimbabwe has promoted its wartime guerrilla leaders to the rank of lieutenant-general.

They are Lookout Masuku, commander of Joshua Nkomo's ZIPRA and commander of ZANLA Rex Nhongo. ZANLA is the military wing of Prime Minister Mugabe's ZANU (PF) ●