

The Operation against Mozambican “Bandits”

(a) Maputo home service in Portuguese 1800 gmt 11 Dec 81

Text of report

(ME/6904/ii)

Garagua, the most important base of the armed gangsters, has been razed to the ground by our armed forces. [Maj-Gen Tome Eduardo, commander of frontier troops, voice-recording] The victory we achieved is the fruit of your understanding, the fruit of the political maturity of our soldiers, their profound understanding of what is an offensive against reaction. It was thanks to you and your sacrifices that we were able to penetrate this area called Garagua. You accepted orders, forgot about your own lives, denied yourselves the easy life and accepted hardship. Today we are here in Garagua. We would like to stress that this victory should not make us complacent. The mission has not been fulfilled. We must, in accordance with the orders of our C-in-C , liquidate the armed gangsters in our territory, this mission must be fulfilled by our defence and security forces.

[Announcer] Those were the words of Maj-Gen Tome Eduardo when he was addressing FPLM soldiers after the capture of the Garagua enemy base. . . [Tome] We must consolidate our gains. We must not allow the enemy to recover this area. We have liberated the people. Tomorrow you will be given missions in continuation of our operation, which we have code-named Punição (Portuguese: punishment). We have code-named it Punição because we are punishing the bandits besides giving them a warning that there is no area here in the PRM which our armed forces cannot reach. They [bandits] may occupy an area for one, two, three or even six months or a year, but we are always going to expel them. Do you understand this?

[Reply of Yes].

You must therefore prepare yourself for continued fighting. You must regain strength and get the ammunition for further actions. Our main and fundamental task now is hot pursuit.

Note: Maputo radio (1030 gmt 12 Dec 81) said:

(Text) The Mozambican armed forces yesterday continued with Operation Punishment to mop up the counter-revolutionaries who have been dispersed and dislodged from their main base in Garagua, Manica province. Also, yesterday, Tome Eduardo, commander of the advanced Post at Mahaze, toured Garagua, where he met the soldiers who took part in the assault on the enemy base. We must think seriously about this victory. It should not make us forget that there are new tasks to be implemented so that this victory may be consolidated. Tome Eduardo said.