

The Operation against Mozambican “Bandits”

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The Mozambican armed forces (FPLM) have occupied the main base in Mozambican territory of the self-styled “Mozambican National Resistance”, an organization set up, financed and armed by the South African regime [garbled passage]. The base is located in Garagua, Mussorize district, in the south of Manica province, about 20 km from the Zimbabwe border.

[Garbled words] using the air force, heavy artillery, motorized infantry and armoured vehicles. The first outposts were captured on 4th December late in the afternoon. During the fighting six enemy elements were killed. The base was totally occupied by the Mozambican forces on 7th December.

According to a special correspondent of AIM [Mozambican news agency] the base in 2 km in diameter and is completely surrounded by mountains, which makes access difficult. It was divided into zones where a command post, training centre, specialists centre and living quarters made up of 38 houses were situated. It also had a landing area for helicopters and a contingent of 1,000 men.

Three days before the final assault, an enemy helicopter was spotted overflying the base, the belief being that some of the leaders may have been evacuated to South Africa at the time.

During the operation, the Mozambican armed forces captured a large amount of military equipment, including fuel for helicopters, 82 mm mortars, bazookas, an anti-aircraft gun, British-made Racal radios and medicine.

The Mozambican armed forces also seized several documents on the Mozambican National Resistance's activities in South Africa, Portugal, France and West Germany. Among the documents are the minutes of a meeting between leaders of that movement and South African army officers. It is stated in the minutes that the dispatch of contingents sent from South Africa to operate in Mozambique would in future be made by sea, since it was becoming extremely difficult to do it by helicopter.