MNR Activity ARB (P) 21(4)1453

According to the Financial Mail (Johannesburg), the month-old Nkomati Accord is clearly seen to be bearing fruit for South Africa in the shape of action against ANC personnel by Mozambique and Swaziland. But sources in Maputo say they are wondering about "Pretoria's part of the bargain".

This follows sabotage in Mozambique by the Mozambique National Resistance movement (MNR) of the electricity supply line from South Africa, and the ambush of a train north of Maputo in which one person was killed and 31 wounded.

"The South African government has been deafeningly silent about their part of the (Nkomati) bargain," a spokesman of the Mozambican Information Ministry told the Financial Mail. "We don't know what action has been taken against the MNR leadership and camps near Phalaborwa in the eastern Transvaal."

Maputo also claims that in the weeks before the signing of the security accord with South Africa on March 16th, a large number of MNR guerrillas were allowed to infiltrate Mozambique through the Kruger National Park. These "bandits" are thought to be responsible for the latest rebel activity near Moamba about 70km from Maputo.

However, the Mozambican spokesman also said that the accord was having a "demoralising effect" on the MNR and that "defections" from the rebels were increasing, particularly in the centre of the country. (FM 27/4)