

Planes violating Mozambican airspace "come from Malawi" (Text) Maputo, 14th October: There is no doubt that the aircraft which violate Mozambican airspace in the northern province of Niassa come from Malawi, according to Niassa provincial military commander, Col Bernardo Goi-Goi. Interviewed in the latest issue of the monthly magazine of the Mozambican armed forces, '25 de Setembro', Col Goi-Goi said "Malawi shelters the bandits. That's the truth - they have bases there and are received by the government. We have proof that the light planes and even helicopters that violate our airspace come from Malawi." Malawian support for the bandits was most obvious in the south of the province, in the districts of Mecanhelas, Mandimba and Ngauma. Col Goi-Goi said that the visit by President Samora Machel to Malawi in November 1984 had not improved matters. After the President's visit Malawian support for the MNR continued, he said.

Col Goi-Goi explained that the railway to Malawi, which passes through southern Niassa, was partially usable. The section from the Malawian border to the town of Cuamba functions reasonably, as does the branch line from Cuamba to the district capital, Lichinga, despite all MNR attempts at sabotage. However, there are major problems on the stretch from Cuamba to the city of Nampula. This is due to banditry and the poor state of the line which leads to frequent derailments. Aid from Canada, France and the EEC for the rehabilitation of this part of the line has now been confirmed. (AIM/PANA in English 1528 gmt 14 Oct 86)