

Refugees claim South Africans commanding MNR groups (Text) People fleeing from the district of Mutarara on the border with Malawi speak of white South Africans commanding groups of MNR terrorists who recently infiltrated that part of Mozambican territory from Malawian soil. Mutarara is the easternmost district of the northwestern province of Tete. It is a narrow strip of land sandwiched between the Malawian border and the Zambezi river. According to a reporter of the daily 'Noticias' newspaper currently in Tete City, eyewitnesses who have escaped from Mutarara referred to these white men as South Africans. In contact with Maputo today, the reporter said that a large number of people have made their way from Mutarara to Tete City and that people fleeing from other zones invaded by these bandits are concentrating along the shores of Lake Cahora Bassa, west of the province. In the area of Maravia in the north (?centre) of Tete many peasants have abandoned their homes and are hiding from the MNR gangs in the bush. Last weekend the Mozambican government and the frontline states denounced the massive infiltration of bandits by South Africa from Malawian soil affecting mainly the Mozambican provinces of Tete and Zambezia. (Maputo in English 1800 gmt 17 Oct 86)