

Maputo denial over MNR dialogue group

H 25/11/66

MAPUTO.

MOZAMBIQUE'S Justice Minister Cde Osumane Ali Dauto said on Wednesday that "there exists no committee in Mozambique formed to enter into dialogue" with the bandits of the South African-backed MNR.

The minister was reacting to reports from Harare, citing a Mozambican churchman Rev. Filipe Banze of the United Methodist Church, to the effect that the Mozambican government had given the green light to church leaders to initiate contacts with bandit leaders in order to promote a dialogue between them and the Mozambican government.

The reports had claimed that a special committee existed for these contacts with government blessing.

Cde Dauto pointed out that the government had urged churchmen to assist in the task of persuading bandits to give themselves up.

● Mozambican troops killed 30 MNR bandits and destroyed two of their bases this week, the Portuguese news agency Lusa reported yesterday. Quoting official sources in Maputo, Lusa said the army also freed about 200 local people held by the bandits at one of the camps, near Chivundu in Tete. — Ziana-AIM-Reuter.