

**S African Radio Comment Condemns BBC TV Programme on Mozambique**

Johannesburg in English for abroad 0630 gmt 4 Dec 86

Text of commentary:

We comment on media distortion. There can be no doubt that the leftist-dominated media in the Western world has played a major role in shaping the image of South Africa as the destabilising force in the southern African subcontinent. A BBC documentary film [Panorama] on Mozambique which was broadcast this week is a prime example of the international media's anti-South Africa campaign. The film is entitled Mozambique: Apartheid's Second Front, whatever that is supposed to mean. It contains repeated claims of South African-sponsored destabilisation and economic sabotage of Mozambique and other southern African states. South Africa is portrayed as the region's powerful villain. Mozambique's economic collapse is blamed on destabilisation by South Africa and South Africa's expulsion of thousands of Mozambican migrant workers is quoted as an example. Mozambique's Trade Minister, Mr Aranda da Silva, is quoted as saying: "South Africa is trying to create a special problem. We are receiving thousands of people expelled from South Africa who will have no jobs and who will have a big problem". No attempt is made in the film to explain that thousands of Mozambicans work in South Africa because job opportunities in their own country are minimal. There is also no mention of the fact that many thousands of non-contract Mozambican workers are in South Africa illegally and that several thousand refugees have fled from Mozambique to South Africa because they were dying of hunger at home.

This must reign as one of the world's supreme ironies. That blacks from other African states should flee to or choose to find work in South Africa. How can this possibly be if South Africa is such a terrible place, a country where the black man is oppressed and deprived? This is the question the international media should attempt to answer.