

Airmen held in Maputo for plane engine theft

MAPUTO. — Three Mozambican air force officers have been arrested in connection with the theft of military aircraft engines.

State radio, quoting an armed forces statement, said three junior air force officers had been detained. Authorities also intercepted six stolen military aircraft engines

being smuggled out of the country.

The engines, made for MiG fighters and combat helicopters, were found last week on a truck heading towards a neighbouring country, police said. Several civilians were implicated in the theft, which also involved ammunition.

The armed forces com-

muniqué denied media reports that the acting air force commander, Lieutenant-Colonel Pedro Bufalo, was detained last week in connection with the theft.

He had testified about the affair to a commission of inquiry but had not been suspended from duty, the statement said. — Sapa-Reuter.