

MOZAMBIQUE: Chissano operated on in Cuba ICN 5/11/88

Mozambican authorities announced this week that President **Joaquim Chissano** had undergone a prostate operation on October 31 in a Havana hospital. Authorities had earlier described the visit to Cuba by the Mozambican leader, who arrived in the Caribbean island four days before his operation, as "*private*." But rumours that President Chissano was seriously ill had been rampant in Maputo.

Furthermore, a visit to Mozambique by Portuguese Prime Minister Anibal Cavaço Silva, which had been scheduled for November 9 to 12, had to be postponed because of President Chissano's increasing ill-health.

Meanwhile, on October 30, RENAMO rebels attacked and damaged a stretch of 150 metres on the Maputo-Swaziland railroad, causing a serious disruption of rail transportation. Two days earlier, near the border town of Ressano Garcia, the rebels sabotaged electrical cables leading from South Africa and providing power to the Mozambican capital.