

Maputo home service in Portuguese 1700 gmt 29 Mar 79

Text of "communique from the General Staff of the People's Forces for the Liberation of Mozambique [FPLM]":

~~1) 10250~~
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BBC 31/3/79

The enemy has once again committed a crime against our revolution. As we have already announced, a group of enemy agents carried out sabotage against oil depots at Munhava in Beira early in the morning on 23rd March. A group of murderers who had infiltrated the area cut the electrical supply line and opened fierce fire against FPLM units defending the zone. The FPLM responded promptly, thus baulking the enemy objective of totally destroying the oil depots, which would have led to a high death toll among residents in the outskirts. The FPLM killed one enemy agent.

The blaze resulting from this criminal act reached 10 oil depots and the value of refined oil products lost in the fire is put at 32,000 contos. According to investigations carried out, the total damage is estimated at 100,000 contos. Damage was caused to installations belonging to the Petromoc, Mobil, Caltex and BP Shell oil companies.

The speedy work done by those engaged in extinguishing the blaze made it possible for it to be completely put out 37 hours after the sabotage. The commitment of these workers also made it possible for the supply of electricity to Beira to be restored only four hours after the sabotage of the power station. The response from the FPLM and the action of the workers in combating the blaze also made it possible for the supply of oil to the Sofala, Manica and Tete provinces to remain unaffected.

Most of the oil destroyed in the blaze was stored in the Mobil company's installations and was destined for Malawi. The supply of refined oil products to that neighbouring country has, however, already been re-established.

It is important to note some key aspects of the enemy's criminal act. This type of aggression is planned by the enemy general staff in Salisbury and is carried out by traitors. PIDE [Portuguese colonial intelligence service] agents, renegades, Frelimo deserters, bandits and persons of indeterminate status (Portuguese: marginais) recruited by the illegal Rhodesian regime, trained in Rhodesian camps and taken into our country by the illegal regime's helicopters and transported back out by them after the operations.

For a long time now these reactionaries have been used for reconnaissance work and as guides of the racist regime troops in their systematic violations and attacks against our country. In exchange for promises and money this rabble of lackeys and traitors agrees to murder defenceless civilians, women and children. It is these criminals who guide the Smith rabble when they kidnap people, attack buses and trains carrying people and goods, set fire to farms, murder [foreign] co-operative workers and commit massacres and murder bids against our people.

The use of these internal reactionaries represents a new tactic in the increasing attacks against our revolution. Shortly after the proclamation of independence, the aggression was characterized by temporary territorial occupations and was unleashed openly by the illegal regime's troops. Today, we have increased our defence capacity. The FPLM is able to put a halt to such invasions.

The enemy is now forced to resort to new tactics. Above all, Ian Smith is desperately trying to gain international recognition for his internal settlement. The Rhodesian regime is committed to changing its image of a rebel colony. That is why, when it attacks Rhodesian refugee camps or Mozambican military targets, the regime accepts responsibility. It readily admits responsibility for the attacks, claiming that they are hot pursuit operations. But when it comes to attacking economic or civilian targets in the PRM, it makes use of these murderers and lackeys as direct executioners, reserving its troops for logistic support.

We are still dealing with the same enemy, but he is using different tactics because of the strengthening of our defence capacity. Ian Smith is continuing his attacks in pursuit of the same strategy - the perpetration of imperialist aggression aimed fundamentally at destabilizing our economy, creating a climate of insecurity and unrest and destroying the Mozambican revolution.

The enemy agent killed at Munhava was carrying personal documents including a certificate of vaccination, dated 1977. This confirms that enemy agents are able to pass themselves off as ordinary Mozambican citizens.

We should get ready to combat this new form of enemy activity: infiltration into our midst. It is the enemy's behaviour, his abnormal way of trying to obtain information about civilian, military and economic targets, the way he talks, [and] his strange life that will identify him, regardless of his colour, race or [word indistinct].

We should heighten our vigilance in order to detect and neutralize these enemy agents infiltrated into our midst. Enemy activities produce a hatred of class by our people. It strengthens our determination to fight for the defence of our fatherland and people's gains. Revolutionary vigilance is not only the duty of the defence and security organs. It is a permanent task; it is the task of all of us.

The FPLM, the defence forces of the people and of the revolution, which under the leadership of Frelimo defeated the Portuguese fascist colonial army, are firmly resolved to defend the sovereignty of the country, the hard-won independence and the security of the people and the state.

The struggle continues.