

S African Radio Interview with Mozambique Resistance Movement Spokesman

Johannesburg in English for abroad 1112 gmt 6 Nov 79

BBC
9.11.79

(i) Precis with quotations from introduction to item in "South African Panorama" programme

"The Mozambique national resistance movement is an anti-Marxist organization fighting against President Samora Machel's rule. . . In the past two months the resistance has been intensifying its guerrilla operations against Frelimo strongholds." The resistance movement became known about two years ago, in early 1977. Attacks against Frelimo strongholds, reported in three communiques over the last three weeks, have been confirmed by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Mozambique. The resistance has gained more credibility and is now waging the operational and the propaganda campaign simultaneously. Last night Mario Crespo [phonetic - of Radio RSA's Africa desk] was contacted by a spokesman for the resistance.

"[Crespo] We were contacted at the Africa desk by telephone and we had the news that a senior official for the organization, the head of the department of information - which I assume was a newly-formed department - was willing to grant us an interview, and of course, we took it eagerly and I think the best thing is to listen to it."

(ii) Excerpts from recorded interview:

[Unnamed speaker - in English] The national resistance movement is a hard movement against the Government of Samora Machel. . . We are against the communist system of the Machel Government. We are not against the Frelimo because we are the Frelimo. We are the Frelimo fighters who continue with the same ideals of Dr Eduardo Mondlane. . . We start with a few groups in the end of the '76, first months of '77, but our operation at that stage was very small, but in the end of '78 and when the '79 starts it is when just now we are already with enough equipment, enough weapons, enough munitions to start a big offensive. . . We are just now preparing for a big offensive and I can tell you that next week I will give you more informations about (?huge success in) the other areas. . . [Question on operations apparently being confined to central Mozambique at the moment:] It is from there we are start to go to the north and the south of Mozambique. We have already groups in the south. We are preparing also to cross the river and go to the north. [Question on the resistance operating mainly in rural areas.] If you fight like a guerrilla what you try to do it is to surround the towns, to try to cut all the communications to the towns. And we know in the towns they have a lot of the Russians, Cubans, East Germanists [sic], and they have a lot of kinds of weapons which we have nothing can fight against these weapons they have, like artillery and something like that. But if you surround a town, the people start to be upset inside of the town, the people start to be confused: some of the people start to run away, some of the [words indistinct] the Frelimo soldiers start to desert and to come to our base. We don't need to force to go inside of the town. We will wait.

Q Accusations have been levelled against the Mozambique resistance to the effect that the organization would be just a front for the operation of Zimbabwe Rhodesia forces inside Mozambique. How do you react to such accusations?

A This is propaganda from Samora Machel who tried to confuse the international press because there are operations of the Rhodesian force inside of Mozambique against the Mugabe base. Also we are fighting against the government of Samora Machel and he tried to make the connection between us and the Rhodesians, but we have nothing to do with the Rhodesians.