

Mozambique: Capture of Dissidents' Base and Accusation against S Africa

Text of "In Focus" report - poorly received

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Excerpts from:

According to information just received from the Mozambican news agency the People's Forces for the Liberation of Mozambique [FPLM] have attacked and occupied the main base of the counter-revolutionary groups acting under the direction of the National Resistance Movement, MNR. The base was situated on Mount [word indistinct] about 50 km from the border with Zimbabwe in Manica Province.

The attack and occupation followed a series of military operations carried out by the FPLM as a result of which over 300 members of this movement have been captured and (?272) killed so far. According to reports from Manica, the FPLM operations are still in progress with the enemy running away in disarray and others surrendering. Quantities of military hardware bearing South African markings have been captured and quantities of stolen commodities [words indistinct] from Mossurize district recovered.

Youths, men and women (?of) the area who had been kidnapped by these groups and made to work for them and to undergo military training were also liberated. According to statements made by prisoners captured by the FPLM, South African elements have been giving the armed groups operating in Mozambique logistical support, particularly following the downfall of the Smith-Muzorewa regime, which was previously their main logistical and commando supporter during the Zimbabwean people's liberation war.

(?The South African elements were sent) [words indistinct] these groups [word indistinct] Mozambican journalists who visited the base of [word indistinct] at about 1745 [local: date indistinct] two (?Hercules) military aircraft coming from the south (?dropped with the help of) parachutes various types of war material over the main base. Boxes of ammunition, grenades and explosives contained instructions in English and (?Afrikaans). According to [words indistinct] (?the guerrillas) abandoned the base shortly after the rounding up operation carried out by the FPLM. Some of the prisoners have confirmed that there were South African, Portuguese and mercenary military instructors of various nationalities.

The so-called Mozambican National Resistance Movement originated with the independence of Mozambique, comprising [word indistinct] commandos [word indistinct] (?JP) and OPV [Provincial Volunteer Organization] of the Portuguese military and paramilitary units, joined by individuals from Manica and Sofala [Provinces] and operating within the framework of the Rhodesian military strategy until the electoral victory of ZANU-PF. These groups are now [word indistinct] supported logistically by South Africans and mercenaries. According to information from the people of Manica and Sofala provinces, a number of these groups essentially lead a gangster-type life, carrying out acts of murder and robbery to obtain food.