

MOZAMBIQUE BATTLES MERCENARIES

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By Mozambique Information Agency

Maputo

The Mozambique people's liberation forces have attacked and occupied the main camp of the counterrevolutionary groups operating under the name of the National Resistance Movement (MNR).

The camp was situated in the Sitatonga Two mountain range about 30 miles from the Zimbabwe border.

The attack and occupation followed a series of military operations launched by the Mozambican forces during which more than 300 counterrevolutionaries had been captured and 272 killed.

Reports say that the army op-



Afrique-Asie

Samora Machel.

erations are continuing; enemy groups have dispersed in several directions while others have handed themselves over to the

authorities.

A variety of war material of South African manufacture has been captured and goods stolen from private traders have been recovered. Men, women and youths captured by the enemy groups to work for them and receive military training were liberated by the Mozambican forces.

SOUTH AFRICAN SUPPORT

According to prisoners' statements, South African elements have given logistical support to the counterrevolutionary groups in Mozambique, especially after Zimbabwe won its independence this April. Under the Smith-Muzorewa regime, Zimbabwe was the principal center

of logistics and command.

One man recruited by the groups, Agostinho Tiago, told reporters who entered Sitatonga Two base that on June 20 two Nord-Atlas transport planes coming from the south dropped war material by parachute at the central camp of the counterrevolutionaries. The boxes of ammunition, grenades and explosives had markings in English and African languages.

Other prisoners said there were South African and Portuguese military instructors in the camp, and mercenaries of other nationalities. The foreigners reportedly abandoned the camp when the Mozambican forces launched their operation.

The so-called MNR was cre-

ated after Mozambique won independence in 1975, and was composed of members of the special units of the Portuguese colonial army. They were later joined by individuals taken from the provinces of Manica and Sofala, where the group was based.

OPERATE AS BANDITS

The MNR had been operating within the ambit of the Rhodesian military command, but is now either abandoned or supported logistically by South African mercenaries. According to residents of Manic, many of the counterrevolutionary groups have been operating essentially as bandits, killing people and stealing food to live.

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