

# SA denies aid to rebel forces in Mozambique

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PARIS. — South Africa was 'helping the Mozambique National Resistance Movement (MNR) with air drops of arms and ammunition and allowing it to operate from bases inside the republic,' Le Monde's East African correspondent, Jean-Pierre Langellier, reported here today.

Operations by the movement have been on the increase in recent weeks, and Mozambican President Samora Machel has blamed South Africa for helping.

Rebels who have been captured or who have deserted and have been paraded in Maputo have spoken of military training in South Africa from former Portuguese and Rhodesian instructors. Le Monde reported.

Rebel leaders also went to the battle front in South African helicopters, while South African planes fly with impunity over Mozambican territory. Maputo has logged 40 violations of its air space in the past six months.

## 'A HABIT'

A Defence Force spokesman in Pretoria today denied the allegations that South Africa was assisting the MNR.

He said it had become a habit of African States, like Mozambique, to blame everything that went wrong in their countries on South Africa.

He added that it was an indication of their own inability to keep their house in order and to present South Africa to the international arena as a scapegoat.

Le Monde said that although MNR had no liberated zones inside Mozambique it was able to operate from sanctuaries inside South Africa, and its radio station 'Voice of Free Africa' broadcast from the Transvaal.

## TARGETS

MNR attacks in recent months have centred on economic targets.

In September, they blew up six pylons cutting off electricity to Beira. Soon afterwards they damaged a power station.

At the end of October they blew up two bridges on the Pungwe river cutting the road between Beira and Umtali in Zimbabwe. The action also destroyed the oil pipeline linking Zimbabwe with the oil terminal at Beira.

The latest attack last Friday was to destroy eight buoys marking the access channel to the Port of Beira.