

S Africans Reported Killed in Rail Sabotage Attempt in Mozambique

(b) Johannesburg in English for abroad 1100 gmt 24 Oct 81

Text of report

The South African Defence Force has denied a report by Radio Maputo that three South African soldiers had been shot dead in a skirmish with Mozambican forces. The radio alleged that the men had been shot along the railway between Chimoio and Beira. The spokesman for the Defence Force in Pretoria said the allegation was lying propaganda and typical of the African pattern of trying to lay at South Africa's door all the internal problems of neighbouring countries. He said it was known that the Mozambique resistance, MNR, was very active and attempts would probably be made to couple their activities with South Africa. The Mozambican Government would simply have to learn to handle the opposition in the country to its Marxist rule.