

MOZAMBIQUE ARB/P 20(2)

Briton Jailed

15/3/83

Radio Maputo reported on February 22nd that five Mozambican traitors had been sentenced to death and a British citizen had been jailed for 20 years at a trial in the city of Beira. They were among 40 people accused of involvement in sabotage and terrorism planned and organized by the **South African** minority regime. The five Mozambicans to die were convicted of belonging to the South Africa-backed bandit organization known as the Mozambique National Resistance [MNR].

The British citizen who was sentenced to 20 years in jail was Finlay Dion Hamilton, the director of a shipping company in Beira. The court found that he had prior knowledge of the sabotage attack on fuel tanks at Beira last December (p. 6676) when more than \$12m worth of fuel was destroyed. Hamilton had warned his friends to stock up with petrol because there would soon be a shortage. He himself has planned to leave for South Africa in his private plane on the day of the attack. Hamilton was also convicted of concealing at his Beira home four pistols, three grenades and 200 rounds of ammunition.

A total of nine **Portuguese** citizens were also on trial; seven of them were released and two were jailed in connection with the fuel depot attack. They were Benjamin Fox, who was given eight years, and Joao Fernandes, who got four years. One of the Portuguese who was acquitted, Antonio Fonseca, had been accused of spreading

anti-Mozambique propaganda and insulting Government leaders. The court found these charges to be false and recommended that those who made the allegation should be brought to court. Another of the Portuguese released was Elmino Costa Pinto, who had been kidnapped by the MNR last year. He was accused of making propaganda for the MNR after his release, but the court took into account that he had suffered great strain while held captive and had been drunk at the time of the alleged offences.

Out of the total of 29 Mozambicans who appeared before the court accused of terrorism, sabotage and collaborating with the bandits, nine were acquitted; 15 were given jail terms of between six and 15 years. One **Zimbabwean** on trial under similar charges was acquitted.

Relations between Portugal and Mozambique had already taken a turn for the worse when twenty Portuguese and two West Germans received expulsion orders from the Mozambican Government. They were accused of collaborating with the MNR.

All of them worked in Beira under co-operation schemes. The background to the affair is concerned with the sabotaging last December of fuel storage tanks in the port of Beira. Some of the Portuguese now expelled were detained two days later and others subsequently. In all 13 were detained. On February 3rd four of them were paraded at a Frelimo rally. The Beira daily *Diario de Mozambique* has commented on the involvement of foreigners in guerrilla activity.

(R. Lisbon 14/2, R. Maputo 22/2)

Terror Attacks

During February guerrillas killed 31 people in two ambushes in central Mozambique.

Hospital officials said both attacks, by members of the MNR took place close to the main road and railway line linking **Zimbabwe** to the port of Beira.

Dr. Elia Walle, director of Chimoio hospital, said 18 people were killed and 14 wounded on February 2nd when rebels attacked four vehicles with bazooka and rifle fire near Vanduzi.

Most of the dead were civilians travelling in the back of a lorry, which was destroyed. Others were shot as they tried to run away, Dr. Walle said. Three escorting militiamen were killed.

On February 7th, the hospital received victims of another attack, on a bus travelling to Chimoio from Manica near the Zimbabwe border, Dr. Walle said.

Ten travellers were shot or stabbed to death and three people were burned alive inside the blazing bus. (GD 21/2) (See p. 6733BC)