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## **Kidnapped** p. 10

The kidnapping of foreign civilians working in Mozambique has been a fairly constant feature of the activity of the South African-backed "Mozambique National Resistance" (MNR) for the past two years. But the murder and kidnapping of Soviet technicians at the Morrua mining complex in the central province of Zambezia was the most spectacular act of this nature so far and also the one with the most potentially explosive implications.

According to eye witnesses, Morrua was attacked by a large group of heavily armed men at about 4.30 in the morning of August 21. After a two-hour gun battle with the mineworkers' militia, the MNR forced their way into the complex and immediately made for the compound where the Soviet team was staying.

Shouting "We're going to kill everybody," they peppered the first house in the compound with machine gun fire. It was here that two of the Soviet team, Victor Voronov and Minzakir Ziatdinov, lost their lives. It seems that the murders were committed in order to terrorise the remaining Soviet civilians and dissuade them from any attempt at flight.

Nobody in Maputo has the slightest doubt that the operation was ordered from

Pretoria. The Mozambican Press has voiced fears that the kidnapping of Soviet civilians is a method whereby South Africa hopes to draw the Soviet Union further into the regional conflict. Premier P.W. Botha could then yell "Communist menace" and hope to provoke a knee-jerk reaction, beneficial to Pretoria, from the Reagan administration in the US.