

Testimony by former 'bandit' about S African submarine

Maputo in English to southern Africa 1800 gmt 24 January 1984

A former member of the bandits has told AIM of how he met three members of the South African submarine crew in a bandit base in Inhambane province. Alberto Vicente, who deserted from the quizumba [meaning "hyena"] last May said the submarine had come close to the coast bringing Mozambicans who had received terrorist training in South Africa and taking out others who were to receive similar instruction. Vicente said the Mozambicans, who were in uniform and armed with Kalashnikov machine guns and bazookas, came ashore from the submarine in small boats. He said the three South Africans spoke in English and behaved like tourists, wearing swimming trunks and taking photographs. He said they spent 48 hours at the base, which was in Vilanculos district in the north of the province. Vicente said the newly arrived bandits were sent to the main quizumba base at Tome, 150 km inland. Tome was the bandit headquarters for all of southern Mozambique until it was destroyed by the Mozambican armed forces last August. He said he had been well treated since he surrendered to the armed forces and added that many of the other bandits wanted to desert but were afraid. President Samora Machel announced recently that bandits who surrendered with their weapons will be pardoned and reintegrated in society.

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