

## MNR gun not S. African

PHIL COHEN's feature report "On the trail of the MNR" (*New African* October 1984) abysmally failed to produce any sound evidence of South African-made or supplied weapons allegedly being used by guerrillas of the Mozambican National Resistance fighting against the Marxist regime of President Samora Machel.

One of the pictures Mr Cohen inserted in his report shows what he refers to as "South African markings on a gun captured from the MNR". The picture, taken by a photographer employed by the Mozambique state-run news media, shows the letters "SAR" which, in his article, Mr Cohen changed to "RAS" apparently to read Republica da Africa do Sul, the Portuguese translation of Republic of South Africa.

The abbreviation "SAR" does not stand for either Republic of South Africa in English or in Afrikaans (Republiek van Sud-Afrika). These abbreviations are usually displayed on the Belgian FN rifle, meaning "safety", "auto" and "repetition" positions to which the weapon's selector can be set to regulate the firing mechanism. However, neither the picture nor the report give any plausible indication as to the make of the gun.

In fact no one can tell whether the picture is that of a gun. Couldn't it perhaps be of any of the South African Railways, SAR's, rolling stock normally seen at the Mozambique port of Maputo?

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