

**Mozambican government and MNR military claims** (Text) Nampula (Mozambique), 24th May: The bandits of the South African backed "Mozambique National Resistance" (MNR) in the northern province of Nampula are currently adopting a passive defensive position, according to a meeting held in Nampula city over the past week at which were present all the commanders of the Mozambican battalions stationed in the province. The meeting recognised, however, that "organisational lapses and individual carelessness" had played into the bandits' hands in several parts of the province. As an example, the commanders cited the case of the town of Murrupula in the south-west of the province. Part of Murrupula was attacked by the MNR earlier this year, and the bandits made off with possessions of local residents.

The meeting, chaired by provincial military commander Maj-Gen Eduardo da Silva Nihia, revealed that over the past two months Mozambican troops in Nampula have destroyed eight MNR camps. They killed 56 bandits and 84 collaborators. A further 13 bandits were captured. The battalion commanders also discussed military logistical questions related to soldiers' wages, and political education inside the army units. The meeting also stressed

the need for the army to cultivate its own fields and to breed livestock to provide food for the troops. (PANA in English 1055 gmt 24 May 86)

(Text of Capital Radio report) Rebel forces in Mozambique are claiming renewed successes against government troops. The MNR organisation, in a statement released in Lisbon, said it has occupied four towns and killed nearly 300 government, Zimbabwean and Tanzanian soldiers. It says the towns in the Manica and Sofala provinces were captured earlier this month. Twenty nine rebels soldiers are said to have been killed and more than 50 wounded in the latest operations. There has been no independent confirmation of the claims and Western diplomats says the MNR's casualty figures are often exaggerated. (Capital Radio, Umtata, in English 1400 gmt 23 May 86)