

Mozambican government military claims (Excerpts from Mozambican armed forces "Voice of combat" programme) During the last five months, the Mozambican armed forces have killed 217 armed bandits in Zambezia province in operations carried out in several districts. The FPLM captured eight bandits and released 552 civilians who had been forced to live with the bandits. . . Five bandits surrendered to the authorities. . . Still in Zambezia, 10 armed bandits were killed and 17 others were wounded when a bandit group tried to attack Lugela, in Mocuba district. The prompt response of our combatants thwarted the bandits' designs and they were forced to flee. In Chapala, Alto Molocue district, the FPLM destroyed a bandit camp where they released 120 women and 10 children who were living with the bandits.

In Maputo, on the night of 2nd June, a group of armed bandits which had infiltrated Matola district was detected by our combatants and forced to flee. In the ensuing shoot-out, five bandits were killed and one was captured [see also ME/8282/ii]. The attacks carried out by the armed bandits in Matola, Machava, and Liberdade regions aim to create instability in these areas and to spread terror and panic among the local population. In Mossurize, Manica province, our combatants destroyed a camp of the armed bandits. This operation was possible due to the vigilance of the local population. . . An explosive device planted in the backyard of a residence in the Sommerschield residential area of Maputo was detected. . . [Passage on Maputo military command's gift of a radio to the discoverer of the device.] (Maputo in Portuguese 0605 gmt 8 Jun 86)

[Note: Earlier, on 5th June, in a broadcast in English for southern Africa, Maputo radio said: (Text) Mozambique's army units are currently on an offensive against South Africa's MNR terrorist gangs in parts of Mozambique territory. Recent operations have resulted in the destruction of five terrorist camps in Zambezia, Maputo, and Sofala provinces. During the operations, since the second half of May, the army has killed more than 120 terrorists, captured dozens of others, and seized large quantities of weapons and other war materiel.]