

MNR BANDITS HACK 44 PEASANTS TO DEATH

MAPUTO. ~~10/11/80~~ **BANDITS** of the South-African backed MNR hacked 44 peasants to death in two separate massacres in the southern province of Inhambane last month.

The Inhambane provincial military commander, Major-General Domingos Fondo, who is currently in Maputo, confirmed these atrocities yesterday.

General Fondo said that

the first massacre took place on October 24, when bandits murdered 25 peasants at Bambel in the district of Jangamo. Bambel is about 60 km south of Inhambane city and 440 km north of Maputo.

More details of the massacre were given by Unicef officials and rural water supply personnel working in the region. They said that the bandits had surprised local people at Bambel at mid-

night while they slept. They forced their captives to carry goods that the bandits had looted in the neighbourhood.

The peasants were marched for a long distance with the bandits' loot on their heads, but then refused to go any further. Infuriated at this challenge, the bandits attacked them with knives and axes and hacked to death the 25 who were not able to

escape. 4. 18. 11. 80

General Fondo said that a second massacre took place on November 9 in northern Inhambane, in between the towns of Massinga and Funhalouro.

Here bandits killed 19 people, including children.

Twenty survivors of this massacre are at present under treatment at Inhambane Provincial Hospital. They include two women whose breasts have been cut off

and who are in a critical condition, and a 14-month-old child who is critically ill with head wounds.

During the massacre, said the general, some children were literally cut in two.

General Fondo said it was now possible to travel throughout Inhambane by road, without any military escort. — Ziama-AIM.