

# Mozambique Says 200 000 Fled

NYT. 20/11/86

MAPUTO, Mozambique, Nov. 19 (AP) — The national news agency said today that about 200,000 people had fled into neighboring Malawi in the last six weeks to escape attacks by rebels fighting Mozambique's Marxist Government.

The news agency said rebels of the Mozambique National Resistance had hacked 44 peasants to death in two incidents and were seen crossing into Malawi with sheet metal, furniture and other goods taken in the attacks.

## Pretoria Denies Assertion

The agency quoted officials as saying that this proved Malawian complicity in the attacks. The Government has long claimed the rebels are based in Malawi, but that country denies it.

Mozambique also says that South Africa supports the rebels, but Pretoria denies it. Malawi is the only black African country that has diplomatic relations with South Africa.

The report of the people fleeing from Zambézia Province into Malawi was the first time Mozambican officials had described such a large exodus.

## 'Bandits Looted Everything'

Officials of international relief agencies reported in early November that 40,000 to 60,000 Mozambicans had fled into Malawi to escape the fighting.

The report quoted Capt. Raimundo Kantumbiyanga, administrator of the Milange district in Zambézia Province, as saying that people had begun fleeing

in large numbers in late September when the rebels began attacks in Milange and two other districts.

He was quoted as saying that Milange was attacked on Sept. 29. "The bandits looted everything. After that, they dynamited the houses and the three tea-processing factories," he was quoted as saying.

The agency also quoted Raul Custodio, administrator of a tea plantation, as saying that two days before the attack, the families of Malawian officials in the border area were evacuated.

"After the attack, we came to the logical conclusion: The Malawians had moved them to avoid any of their own citizens being caught in the crossfire," he was quoted as saying.

## 25 Peasants Killed Last Month

The agency quoted Maj. Gen. Domingos Fondo, military commander of Inhambane Province, as saying that the rebels killed 25 peasants at Bambel in Jangamo district on Oct. 24. The agency said the peasants had been marched from the village and forced to carry the bandits' loot on their heads, but they finally refused to go further and were slain.

In a separate incident, Captain Fondo said bandits had entered a hamlet near Massinga the night of Nov. 9 and killed 19 people, including children, while the victims slept. He said 20 survivors had been hospitalized.