

Fifty massacred in tea factory ^{23/2/83} attack^{H.} by MNR

GURUE (Mozambique).

BANDITS of the South African-backed MNR massacred about 50 people, and sabotaged five tea factories recently in the district of Gurue in the central Mozambican province of Zambesia.

The factories belong to the Mozambican state tea company, Emocha, and the damage runs into millions of dollars.

The attack took place on February 12 when a large band of bandits infiltrated the area of Muepagua, north-west of Gurue town. They then moved down to zone three of Emocha's tea plantations.

They murdered and kidnapped local people, and looted their homes. A tractor was ambushed as it carried three patients to hospital. The patients were killed.

An Indian engineer estimates that two of the five sabotaged factories are damaged beyond all hope of repair. The five plants had just been rehabilitated at a cost of about US\$30 million.

Many tonnes of tea were destroyed plus vehicles and agricultural machinery. Emocha had thousands of tonnes of tea in its warehouses harvested from 1983 onwards which it had not been able to transport because of bandit attacks on the Zambesia roads. — Ziana-AIM.