

Mozambique gives details of S African infiltration of "armed bandits" (Text) On 5th February South Africa infiltrated 250 armed bandits in the border areas of Massingir and Chicualacuala in Gaza province. This was reported by Capt Quisito Charlito, commander of the border guard brigade stationed in Massingir. According to the officer, South Africa helped to move a large number of armed bandits to the town of Phalaborwa [north-eastern Transvaal]. They were later infiltrated into our country through Kruger National Park and Skukuza to Gaza and Maputo provinces. These bandits are carrying out criminal actions along national highway 1, said Capt Charlito.

In the first two weeks of January, the Mozambican armed forces killed 12 armed bandits and destroyed two bandit camps in Mapulanguene and Macandezulo, in Maputo and Gaza provinces respectively. In their hasty retreat, the bandits left behind their dead as well as war materiel including bazookas, mortar shells and ammunition. In this attack the Mozambican armed forces retrieved goods stolen from the population including chairs, clothing and 53 head of cattle. A Mozambican military source noted that the captured weapons had no registration numbers or manufacturer identification, because the bandits removed them in an effort to make identification impossible. However, the source added, we still know where they get their weapons. (Maputo home service in Portuguese 0400 gmt 24 Feb 87)