

'Hypocrisy from West on MNR'

23 JUL 1987

THE international community was pouring in relief aid to victims of banditry in Mozambique but did not stop South Africa from supporting Renamo bandits there, Senator Kantibhai Patel told the Upper House yesterday.

During the debate on the Presidential address, Senator Patel said that Western countries, by doing this, were guilty of double standards.

He said that while their relief organisations sent food and blankets to the victims of war in Mozambique, conservative organisations such as the Heritage Foundation of the United States, supported bandits and dissidents there and elsewhere.

"We should expose this hypocritical behaviour of the West," Senator Patel said.

He said South Africa

continued to be aggressive towards the Frontline States on the pretext that they harboured freedom fighters.

"No amount of propaganda by South Africa against Zimbabwe and other Frontline States will ever change the fact that the cause of the conflict is the racist regime itself," he said.

Senator Patel said South Africa's defence budget of about eight billion rands this year was evidence of its continued aggression against Frontline States.

"We in Zimbabwe pose no military threat to South Africa. If we pose a threat to South Africa at all, it is in the form of the good race relations that we have maintained in this country since independence," he said.