

ATTACKS CRIPPLE MAPUTO MINING

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MAPUTO.

SOUTH AFRICA'S undeclared war on Mozambique, through MNR bandits, has caused losses of around US\$200 million to the country's mining sector over the past seven years.

According to the national mining directorate, US\$81 million in direct losses was caused by destruction of mining equipment and infrastructure in bandit attacks against mining projects.

Nine mining technicians, including both Mozambicans and for-

signers, have been killed by the MNR over this period.

The Mozambican mining sector began to feel the effects of war in 1979, when Mr Ian Smith's Rhodesian army launched attacks against iron and tin exploration projects in Honde and Inchope, in the central province of Manica.

By 1984 production in terms of value, had dropped by almost two thirds (from about US\$10 million in 1981 to US\$3.5 million in 1984).

Exports declined by around 60 percent due to the complete halting of some projects, the destruction of equipment, and increased transport difficulties.

These figures do not include coal, which is dealt with by a separate directorate.

Today the perspectives for increased production are good, given improved security conditions in many of the areas where mining projects are located.

The authorities hope to attract further foreign investment to the sector. The countries currently involved in Mozambican mining are the United States, the Soviet Union, the German Democratic Republic, Bulgaria, France and Italy. — Ziana-Afm.