

# Mozambique Says Rebels Had S. African Aid

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JOHANNESBURG, Oct. 31—Anticommunist guerrillas involved in an alleged massacre of 211 civilians north of the Mozambican capital, Maputo, on Thursday came from a coastal base where they have received South African military supplies landed by sea, the official Mozambican news agency AIM reported today.

Quoting an unidentified Mozambican military source, AIM said that at least 300 guerrillas of the Mozambican National Resistance movement were involved in the ambush at Taninga, 50 miles north of Maputo. Civilians waiting for an Army-escorted convoy reportedly were gunned down by machine-gun, mortar and bazooka fire as the convoy arrived.

The South African government has denied consistently that it is supplying military aid to the guerrilla group, known as Renamo. Thus far, the Marxist government of Mozambique has not confronted Pretoria with concrete evidence that South Africa is supplying the rebels by sea.

In 1984, South Africa and Mozambique signed a nonaggression pact under which Pretoria promised to stop aiding Renamo and Maputo pledged to expel guerrillas of the African National Congress, the main guerrilla force battling white minority rule in South Africa.

Since then, South Africa has denied any further official involvement with Renamo, although Mozambique has maintained Pretoria still provides the rebels with covert assistance.

The Mozambican Army has been involved in a bush war with Renamo guerrillas since the former Portu-

guese colony gained independence 12 years ago.

A spokesman for Renamo in Lisbon denied today that civilians had been massacred, and said that the guerrillas had attacked a military convoy, inflicting casualties.

AIM said that at least 211 civilians died after the rebels opened fire on them as they waited for a convoy from Maputo to accompany them on the southbound journey back to the capital.

An AIM correspondent who visited Taninga and who quoted survivors of the attack said that some of the victims had been sitting in buses waiting for the military convoy and that others had been strolling around a crowded marketplace buying food when the rebels opened fire from nearby construction ditches.

The official news agency said that pandemonium broke out during the attack, and that some of the vehicles

collided as they tried to escape. AIM said that the wrecks of 80 vehicles were strewn over a two-mile stretch of road, and that some were still burning late yesterday.

Mozambican journalists escorted to the scene by the Army reported seeing burned bodies by the side of the road. They said other victims appeared to have been shot as they fled the buses.

AIM quoted a survivor, whom it identified as Rosa Jose, 30, as saying the attackers looted the buses before setting them on fire.

"I saw a group of five bandits unloading sacks of sugar from a truck and others were stealing things from cars belonging to miners returning from South Africa," AIM quoted Jose as saying.

The Mozambican government said that Army troops battled with the guerrillas for seven hours before the attackers withdrew.

The attack occurred near where 51 civilians were reported killed in a similar ambush two weeks ago.