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DEFENCE CHIEFS DISCUSS SA AGGRESSION

MINISTERS of Defence and Security in Zimbabwe and Mozambique on Thursday held a consultative meeting in Maputo to review the political and military situation in Southern Africa.

According to a statement from Maputo which was released in Harare yesterday, Home Affairs Minister Cde Enos Nkala, led the Zimbabwean delegation, while his counterpart, General Alberto Chipande, led the Mozambican delegation.

The meeting condemned the recent massacres at Homoine, Manjacaze and Taninga by the ~~MANA~~ bandits.

"These massacres were perpetrated against a background of intensified aggression and destabilisation by the apartheid regime against the peoples and countries of the region," the statement said.

The meeting reaffirmed the two countries' determination to intensify their joint efforts in the defence of their sovereignty and the elimination of armed banditry.

The Zimbabwean delegation conveyed a message to President Joaquim Chissano of Mozambique from the Prime Minister Cde Mugabe. President Chissano reaffirmed the "longstanding fraternal bonds of co-operation existing between Zimbabwe and Mozambique".

● The Minister of State for Security, Cde Emmer-son Munangagwa said in Gweru yesterday that Zimbabwe's armed forces will maintain their pre-

sence in Mozambique, for as long as South Africa continues its destabilisation activities against that country.

"What is of great concern to us is the senseless destruction of human and material resources at the hands of South Africa's murderous dissidents who come to our country in the form of Super Zapu and Renamo," said Cde Munangagwa.

In a speech read on his behalf by Minister of Mines, Cde Richard Hove, during the official opening of the workshop on population and development which started in Gweru yesterday, Cde Munangagwa said: "The dissidents not only destroy resources, but also equipment which is used in the production of vital resources."

The Pretoria regime, he said, understood very well that in order to subvert our sovereignty, it must try to control Zimbabwe's resources.

"It (the regime) sent its renegades to Mozambique as well as to Angola and Namibia to destroy what the people in those countries require to survive," he said.

Cde Munangagwa said that in Zimbabwe's case, racists were trying to take advantage of the country's landlocked position and threatened routes to the sea in order to overstretch its resources.

"We saw the plot quickly and decided to move just as quickly. We are in Mozambique along with our brothers from Tanzania to protect the lines of communication."

— Ziana.

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