

17 killed

in MNR

attack

chr 850210

MOAMBA (Mozambique)
— Seventeen people were killed and 32 were injured in a bandit attack on a town between the capital and the South African border, the national news agency, AIM, reported yesterday.

The report said a four-month-old baby, already orphaned in a February 2 attack on a passenger train, survived for eight hours in the hospital despite smoke and fumes from the beds and other material that had been set on fire in the Saturday night attack on Moamba.

The news agency said 500 raiders, which it identified as MNR bandits, attacked the town from three sides. Moamba is about 50 km north-

west of Maputo and 25 km east of the South African border.

AIM quoted a nurse, Cde Luis Matsolo, as saying, "the group that came in from the south was singing while the other two groups entered silently. I think that most of the attackers were in the second two groups, and that the task of the other was to distract the attention of our defence forces".

The news agency said three bandits were killed and a witchdoctor-guide was taken prisoner in the fighting with the local defence units, but gave no casualty figure for the town forces.

The news agency said the bandits looted the local hospital, two shops and three homes, which they then set on fire, and also blew up five trucks. — Ziana-AP.