## **RSA Reacts To Report on Mozambican Refugees** *MB0205093988 Johannesburg THE SUNDAY STAR in English 1 May 88 p 11*

[By Sam Sole]

[Text] The Department of Foreign Affairs has reacted sharply to the publication of the report [by the U.S. State Department on the Mozambican refugee crisis].

South Africa has admitted to past support for the rebel group, but State Department sources are reported as saying no information has been received from the refugees linking SA with MNR.

Mr Glen Babb, deputy Director-General of Foreign Affairs, lashed out this week at suggestion that South Africa bore moral responsibility for MNR actions.

"It makes my blood boil," he said. "We have given no help to MNR since the Nkomati Accord in 1984 and we have done nothing to support the actions of MNR alleged in the report.

"In fact, Sharron Bear of THE INDEPENDENT in London recently spent six months with the MNR without uncovering any evidence of South African involvement."

He also questioned the method used to gather data for the report. "There is a big question mark about who the 'bandits' referred to by the refugees really are. We have excellent sources which indicate that Frelimo is responsible for at least its share of killings. there is no way a group like MNR could survive on the ground without considerable local support."

Mozambique's Government had little control over its troops in the field, Mr Babb said. He cited an incident this year in which a South African helicopter, given free passage by Maputo, had been detained on an island in the Mozambique Channel. He denied that South Africa could derive any benefit from destabilising her neighbours.

"The subcontinent needs economic development as a whole; there is no way we can survive as a rich island in a sea of poverty." South Africa was going to great lengths to promote economic development in Mozambique, he said. He gave examples of aid provided before and after the signing of the Nkomati Accord:

-The repair of pumping equipment, steam generators and locomotives.

-Supply of railroad materials and storage and cooling facilities at Maputo harbour.

-Upgrading of the harbour, a sugar refinery, and various roads within the country.

-Donation of a tug for the harbour.

-Initiative for the recommissioning of the Cahora Bassa hydro-electric scheme.

-Employment of 50,000 mineworkers in South Africa.

South Africa had also accommodated more than 250,000 Mozambican refugees, Mr Babb said.