Security Forces Kill 73 MNR in Pursuit Operation MB2005181788 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 20 May 88

[Text] Zambian security forces have gunned down 73 bandits belonging to the Mozambique resistance and recovered several heads of cattle, following an incursion into eastern Zambia in which 8 Zambian villagers were killed.

According to a statement from the Ministry of Defense, 7 MNR bandits penetrated 3 km into Zambia on 18 May and attacked Tafelongoni village in Chadiza District, where they killed 8 villagers on the spot and seriously injured 5 before [words indistinct] with 28 heads of cattle. The statement said when the security forces were informed they pursued the bandits 20 km inside Mozambique, killed 73 of them, recovered 24 cattle, and razed to the ground 2 bandit camps.

The five villagers (?have) arrived in Chadiza health center, where their condition has been described as serious. The statement, however, assured villagers in border areas of Chadiza that the situation has returned to normal, and they were reassured of adequate protection.