Armed Forcès Report Successes in Tete Province MB0907081788 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1800 GMT 8 Jul 88

[From the Armed Forces "Voice of Combat" program]

[Text] Over the last few days, there have been new developments in Tete Province's military situation. Over the last 3 months the FPLM forces recaptured the hamlets of Zangue, Domue, Calomue, Chiuta, Singue, Sangano, and Casula, following raids on bandit bases and camps in Chintolog on 6 February and Zumbo and Matenge in March and May, as well as attacks against bandit hideouts at Caprisange on 16 April and Mbalame on 24 May.

According to our correspondent in Tete Province, our forces killed more than 200 armed bandits between January and the first week of July and freed tens of thousands of people living in bandit captivity.

In Sangano alone, our forces freed 25,506 people from the yoke of the criminals. The FPLM forces also captured an assortment of military equipment from the armed bandits. This materiel included B-10 gun barrels, radios, mortar (?bases), radio microphones, [word indistinct], bicycles, motorcycles and an inflatable rubber

dinghy. According to captured bandits interviewed by the 25 September press [as heard], all this equipment had been supplied by the Pretoria regime.

These victories have been saluted by Lieutenant General Antonio Hama Thai during his working visit to Tete Province. Lt Gen Thai praised the officers, noncommissioned officers and soldiers who participated directly or indirectly in this offensive, but he warned that the struggle will continue until the last bandit is eliminated. He stated that it is necessary, quote, to kill the bandit or capture him alive and then turn his head completely around. In Macua vernacular—there is no literal translation for it—it would be called performing (ripitula). On the occasion, Lt Gen Hama Thai praised the courage, tenacity, and audacity displayed by the officers, noncommissioned officers and soldiers in their fight against armed banditry in the region.