

## **MOZAMBIQUE: COMMENTARY SAYS ATTACKS BY "ARMED BANDITS" THREATEN PEACE AND CO-OPERATION WITH S AFRICA**

*Maputo home service in Portuguese 1730 gmt 2 Nov 88*

### *Text of commentary*

Yet again, the armed bandits who terrorise our people showed their murderous fury today. Yet again, the targets were innocent civilians: Mozambican miners who were returning from South Africa to relax and enjoy the fruits of their work. Yet again, the method was a treacherous one: A remote-controlled mine blast followed by an attack on the train. Yet again, the target was a crucial infrastructure for Mozambique and southern Africa as a whole.

If we add this attack to another against a train travelling on the Goba railway a few days ago, and the sabotage that cut power to Maputo on 28th October, we verify that something important is taking place with regard to armed banditry action in southern Mozambique. It is undoubtedly no accident that these three attacks took place over such a short period of time, after a period of relatively low bandit activity in this region. It is undoubtedly no accident that these bloody attacks should occur shortly after the installation of the new South African trade mission in Maputo. Those new installations were described by South African Foreign Affairs Minister Roelof Botha as a symbol of the new type of relations between the two countries, as a symbol of the spirit guiding the signing of the Nkomati accord and the meeting at Songo, and a symbol of the mutual desire for peace.

The forces which, from South Africa, supply and lead the armed bandits have clear aims in ordering such terrorist attacks. That aim can only be to sabotage the peace initiatives in southern Africa in general, and between Mozambique and South Africa in particular. The forces supporting and leading the armed bandits - whatever their level within South African Society - are telling us through the detonation of mines and the firing of rifles that they do not want peace and co-operation between Mozambique and South Africa. They want war, death and domination by hook or by crook.

This leaves us faced with a question: who is our interlocutor in South Africa? The people who come to Songo and Maputo, who talk about peace and co-operation, are those people who, from their barracks or offices, send us death and destruction. What does not seem possible is that we should continue talking peacefully on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, only to have to thwart murderous attacks on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. We are not going to understand each other in this way.

Here is Fernando Canana with details of the train bombing: The train was travelling from Ressano Garcia to Maputo at about 1000 [local time] this morning when it detonated a mine planted by the armed bandits between Pessene and Macuaza, about 40 km from the Mozambican capital. The passenger train was carrying a large number of Mozambican miners returning from South Africa. Up to now, eight people are confirmed to have died, including one woman. Thirty-five people were injured and have already been interned at Maputo central hospital.