

## MOZAMBICAN AND SOUTH AFRICAN COMMENT ON UPSURGE IN MNR ATTACKS

(a) *Maputo home service in Portuguese 1730 gmt 4 Nov 88*

*Text of commentary by Carlos Cardoso of the Mozambique Information Agency*

This is the response of the sponsors of armed banditry to the Songo meeting between Presidents Joaquim Chissano and Pieter Botha: in the space of less than 10 days there were murders and attacks on the railways from Maputo to South Africa and Swaziland, and sabotage to the Komatipoort-Maputo power lines [see Note below].

There was a noticeable absence of this type of action for months. All this recalls what happened immediately before and after the signing of the Nkomati accord in March 1984. The armed bandits were ordered by South Africa to mount a massive infiltration into Maputo province, violating the gentlemen's agreement reached at the Mozambique-South Africa meeting in Mbabane in December 1983, and thereafter, violating the Nkomati accord itself. The famous Gorongosa documents were discovered in 1985. They contained the names of high-ranking South African officers who rejected the Nkomati accord.

Following the Songo meeting and Roelof Botha's recent visit to Maputo, Pretoria promoted domestically and worldwide the idea that a phase of co-operation between the two countries had begun and that security had been dismissed as a minor issue. The European Parliament claimed security issues between Mozambique and South Africa were a thing of the past.

It so happens that security issues remain a burning issue in the relations between the two countries, as seen in the recent armed bandit actions. It is, therefore, legitimate to ask whether Pieter Botha is aware of the situation and in control of his security and armed forces. The latest armed bandit actions, as well as those who have indicated them as the targets to be attacked, are not a mere continuation of aggression against the Mozambican people.

[Note: Maputo home service (in Portuguese 1400 gmt 4 Nov 88) reported: (Text) A communique from Electricity of Mozambique received in our newsroom says that the Maputo-South Africa power lines were sabotaged at 2000 yesterday. The communique adds that alternative energy sources are supplying energy to Maputo.]

(b) *Johannesburg in English for abroad 0300 gmt 5 Nov 88*

*Text of commentary (ME/0301 ii)*

Our comment is on the war in Mozambique. When South Africa's President, P.W. Botha, met President Joaquim Chissano of Mozambique recently he gave him an assurance that South Africa had long ago stopped supporting the Renamo movement. This assurance was accepted by the Mozambican government. So, it was no surprise when Foreign Minister Pik Botha, this week, strongly condemned the latest Renamo sabotage of the Cahora Bassa power line. Mozambique needs the line to sell electricity to South Africa and own valuable foreign exchange. Such acts of sabotage by

Renamo do great harm, not just to the government but to the people of Mozambique because the loss of income means that there is less money available for national development.

South Africa is committed to providing assistance for the development of Mozambique. It is involved in helping to repair the Cahora Bassa line, upgrading Maputo harbour, and spreading schemes to assist Mozambique in creating employment for its own people. But such development work should only succeed if there is peace and stability in Mozambique. For this reason, and because it is wrong to solve political questions through violence, South Africa is firmly opposed to acts of violence committed by Renamo.

In the long run the fighting in Mozambique can only end if political leaders agree to sort out their problems through peaceful means. That means that there will have to be negotiations at some time to end the war and work out solutions that everyone can support. Once the leaders of Mozambique have agreed to work together peacefully it will be possible to pursue much faster its plans for the economic development of the people.