

New bandit group UNAMO

*M10 News Review (142) 1/12/88*

Mr João also spoke of the formation of a separate bandit group, UNAMO (Mozambique National Union) which is fighting both against the Mozambican authorities and against the MNR. This group was founded by Gimo Phiri, formerly the number two to Dhlakama in the MNR military hierarchy, and by an Asian trader living in Malawi, Gilberto Magid. This man holds three passports - British, Portuguese and Malawian - claimed Mr João. Gimo Phiri stays in Magid's house when he visits Malawi.

The split has tribal origins, said Mr João. Phiri and his supporters formed UNAMO because they objected to the domination of the MNR by people from Sofala Province who spoke the Ndau language. Phiri took with him much of the MNR structure in the central province of Zambezi, said Mr João, and currently much of the banditry in upper Zambezia is the work of UNAMO.

from AIM - 30/11/88