

# New Mozambique Violence Is Blamed on South Africa

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MAPUTO, Mozambique, Feb. 24 — In the five months since Mozambique signed a cooperation pact with South Africa, there has been an increase in violent raids and sabotage of key economic installations by rebels who the Government says are supported by South Africa.

The surge in violence by the Mozambique National Resistance, also known as Renamo, has severely set back plans to restore a major hydroelectric power line from the Cabora Bassa Dam, disrupted the Western-financed rehabilitation of a significant rail line and resulted in the brutal killings and kidnappings of civilians in northern and southern provinces.

The rebel activity also means continued difficulty for the delivery of emergency food and medicine to 4.5 million Mozambicans, many of them starving and sick, that the United Nations says have been affected by the guerrilla war. In an appeal to the international community last week, the United Nations and the Mozambican Government asked for \$361 million to finance "war's relief operations.

## Gauging South Africa's Role

Mozambican officials and Western diplomats said in interviews that they believed that the rebels are receiving stepped-up logistical and other support from inside South Africa.

The officials say Renamo has used more sophisticated equipment in recent months, including remote-control devices and high-powered explosives, that suggest the involvement of South Africa.

But there are shades of opinion among these officials about what ele-

ments in South Africa are contributing to the rebels, who call themselves anti-Marxist and who have been described by State Department officials as akin to the Khmer Rouge in their use of terror.

The South African Deputy Foreign Minister, Jacobus Meiring, after a meeting here with Mozambican officials in December said that support from South Africa for the rebels is "is absolutely against the policy of the South African Government." President Joaquim Chissano met last September with President P. W. Botha at Songo, in Mozambique, the site of the Cabora Bassa Dam, and both vowed to cooperate in curbing the rebels.

## Resurgence of Violence

But in December, at a Central Committee meeting of Frelimo, the ruling party, President Chissano acknowledged that while declarations by South Africa had been "positive," "the practice is still contradictory, and there has been no reduction in violence."

In an interview this week, the Secretary of Ideology for Frelimo and a member of the nine-man Politburo, Jorge Rebelo, said: "The support of South Africa to the bandits not only did not end, but was increased" since September.

A Western diplomat said there "has been a resurgence of Renamo since October." He added, "People tend to say if there are sophisticated weapons, mines and remote control, the inference is that it comes from outside, and where else but South Africa?"

The diplomat said there were suggestions that former members of the South African Army were actively assisting the rebels. There was also the possibility, the diplomat said, that the South African military and security forces were using mercenaries to help Renamo. A European was killed by the Mozambican Army during fighting against Renamo in Zambezia Province last November, he said.

Another Western diplomat said it was likely that Renamo had become the "monster" that "agencies within South Africa want to embarrass Botha with." The diplomat was referring to the South African President, P. W. Botha, whom many here perceive as desiring better relations with Mozambique.

At the same time, President Botha, a former Defense Minister, has especially close relations with the military leadership, having installed key army and military intelligence officers at the heart of his administration.

The Mozambican Government, which is striving at a variety of levels to talk with South Africa, has presented evidence of support of Renamo by South Africa at joint security sessions established as part of the cooperation



Refugees from rebel attacks in Sofala Province of Mozambique waiting for food at a crowded shelter about 60 miles away in Marromeu. The town and its hospital have been flooded by thousands of peasants.

pact.

Mr. Rebelo said the Mozambican Government had told the South Africans at the joint security session last month that explosives from a South African state munitions factory were found beside the destroyed pylons of the Cabora Bassa power line.

The Mozambicans had also given evidence that a South African soldier had been killed in a recent clash in Maputo Province between Renamo and Mozambican forces, Mr. Rebelo said.

## Sabotage of Pylons

The recent sabotage of pylons that are part of the Cabora Bassa hydroelectric project to be revived in a partnership between Portugal, South Africa and Mozambique, was particularly startling, officials said.

An inspection of the pylons that run from northern Mozambique across the border into Pretoria, showed that 900 had been knocked out in the middle section of Mozambique in November.

During the recent resurgence, Renamo has refined its usual practice of hitting and immobilizing important economic installations, thus complicating the task taken up by more than 30 international donors who are trying to create a semblance of order out of Mozambique's war chaos.

In December, the rebels, universally referred to here as "banditios," attacked Namialo, a town on the railway line that connects Nacala port, on the northern reaches of Mozambique's coast, with Malawi. A quarry being operated by foreign workers for the rehabilitation of the line is situated at Namialo: the rebel attack has stopped

## Rebuilding and relief efforts are disrupted.

work at the quarry because European governments have complained it is not safe for their workers.

At about the same time, the rebels, who are estimated to number between 15,000 and 22,000, attacked Chibuto, about 100 miles north of Maputo, taking control of the provincial military command center for two days, Western diplomats say.

Further north, in Sofala Province, the rebels overran Inhamaing, once a crucial railway center and producer of wood. More than 7,000 peasants fled toward Marromeu, about 60 miles away, where the district hospital, a wreck until last year, is being revived with West German funds and a West German doctor.

At Marromeu, the scars of war were in full evidence last week. The sugar mill that was the backbone of the town, 30 miles from the coast on the Zambezi River, was attacked in 1986 by the rebels and the mill machinery destroyed. The mill has not produced since, although 300 people have jobs there, about the only work in town, doing maintenance on what is left of the building.

In the last three months, 5,000 refugees from the Inhamaing attack have arrived in Marromeu. Dr. Powell Kramar, the German doctor at the hos-

pital, said the wards have been overcrowded with severe cases of tuberculosis and malnutrition, particularly among people who have escaped from long captivity with the rebels or who had hidden in the bush, too frightened to move on.

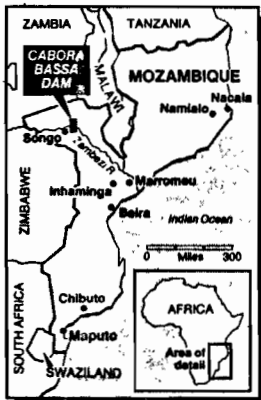
In one ward of the hospital with a dozen malnourished children, a year-old baby boy, his limbs and body shriveled to not much more than the size of the doctor's hand, had arrived four days before, weighing four pounds. His mother had been hiding in the bush, probably for months, Dr. Kramar said.

## Surviving on Almost Nothing

Access to Marromeu is cut off by rebel activity, and like many towns and villages in Mozambique, it is impossible to reach from the outside by road. The town of about 20,000 people relies on one boat to bring supplies up the Zambezi, Dr. Kramar said. A light plane comes every two weeks.

At the refugee camp, six miles out of Marromeu on a track deep with mud, the 5,000 people who fled Inhamaing are crowded in thatch huts and some large canvas tents. In oppressively muggy heat, they try to survive with only one well for drinking water and no latrines.

One of the original residents of the camp, José Blaunde, said he and his family had been kidnapped twice by Renamo over the last three years. Mr. Blaunde said he considered himself lucky because his wife, son and daughter-in-law and their child, who was born along the way, had been kidnapped "at the same time, at the same place" and had been able to stay together.



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