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SA weapons for Renamo — US claim

From The Independent and
Argus Africa News Service

JOHANNESBURG. — Pretoria's military delivered weapons to Mozambican guerrillas and brought rebels to South Africa for training last year, possibly without the approval of President De Klerk's government, according to a report by the US Defence Intelligence Agency (DIA).

South Africa has repeatedly said its support for Renamo was wound down after the Nkomati accord with Mozambique in 1984.

The US Defence Department concluded arms were still being shipped to Renamo by the South African Defence Force after interrogating a rebel deserter in March 1991, who laid out details of weapons drops and his own training in or near the Kruger National Park.

The deserter, identified only as Macuacua, was brought to South Africa at the age of 10 to learn to kill. He is now 18. He fled Renamo during an attack along the Limpopo corridor.

The DIA begins its report with a simple summary. "As late as February 1991, South African helicopters delivered arms and ammunition to Renamo in southern Mozambique."

● The Mozambican authorities say 15 people have been killed and 18 abducted in Manjacaze, Gaza Province, in an attack which they blame on Renamo.