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## MOZAMBIQUE.

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### Portuguese Communique

A communique issued by the Portuguese Armed Forces on January 19th stated that during the period June-December, 1970, 52 major and 1,260 minor anti-guerilla operations were carried out in the districts of Cabo Delgado, Niassa, and Tete bordering **Tanzania, Malawi, Zambia, and Rhodesia**; 132 Portuguese troops were killed. In Cabo Delgado, the operations were aimed at destroying enemy bases, hide-outs and camps, intercepting infiltration across the frontiers, breaking up enemy organisations inside the country and winning over those who had collaborated in the subversion.

According to the communique, infantry units, commandos, marines, paratroops, and shock troops, took part in the operations. Army engineers built roads, houses, and water supply systems, Naval forces spent a total of 12,345 hours intensively patrolling the water frontiers of Lake Niassa (Lake Malawi), the Zambezi river and the sea coast. During the period, 61 enemy bases and 165 hide-outs and camps were destroyed; 1,804 of the enemy were captured and 651 killed. The Portuguese troops' average monthly casualties in the last three months of 1970 was only a quarter of those sustained in the June-September period; 80% of the total casualties suffered by the security forces occurred in the course of deployment, and only 20% in actual combat.

(R. Lourenço Marques 19/1)

The Army high command made it clear in the communique that the use of newly-acquired helicopters for the swift movement of its combat forces was the greatest single factor in Portugal's military successes.

It is understood, the *Daily Telegraph* says that the helicopters are **French** Alouette troop carriers, supplied to Portugal for use in Mozambique early in 1970.

More than a dozen are now in operation, spearheading the new Army strategy of commando raids into the heart of FRELIMO infested areas. (DTel 20/1)