Col. True

B. AFRICA

Mozambique Warns of "Direct Aggression" by S Africa Against Maputo

Maputo home service in Portuguese 1037 gmt 11 Oct 86

Text of communique issued by the Mozambican government in Maputo on 11th October:

The government of the People's Republic of Mozambique has information that the South African armed forces are preparing to carry out direct aggression against the town of Maputo. The attacks being prepared will use the air force and groups of commandos, which have infiltrated our country. This intelligence was conveyed to the Mozambican government by South African citizens opposed to the policy of the warmongers some of whom are linked to South Africa's economic sectors.

The preparation of these attacks appears in the context of an escalation of South African aggression against our country. In the last few months we have seen an increase in armed bandit infiltration from South Africa. South African aircraft have unloaded armed bandits and military equipment in Manica Province to attack the Beira corridor, thus trying to hinder the improvement of the railroad infrastructure linking Beira city with the hinterland [previous word in English]. Other infiltrations have occurred in Maputo and Gaza provinces. Groups of bandits either cross the border or are flown by helicopter to the Mozambicanhhinterland. Increased terrorist operations against our capital have coincided with these actions.

Over the last few weeks, South Africa organised the massive introduction of armed bandits into Tete and Zambezia Provinces from Malawian territory. The destabilisation caused by the armed bandits has caused Mozambicans in the border areas to enter South Africa. Taking advantage of the extreme vulnerability of these Mozambicans, the South African regime uses them in a number of ways. They are used as an over-exploited work force. They are forced to join the armed bandit ranks. They are transformed into objects of propaganda and blackmail against our country.

Some of the concentration camps harbouring these displaced people were transformed into armed bandit training camps. At the beginning of this week, the South African warmongers created an incident concerning the detonation of a land mine which injured a number of South African soldiers. The fabrication of this incident - which was expanded and manipulated by the regime's propaganda - serves as a pretext for direct aggression against our country. South African warmongering circles seek to use this pretext to pressure their government and nullify the efforts of South African politicians seeking a negotiated settlement to South Africa's problems.

It was the South African warmongers who, when the Ian Smith minority racist regime fell, took over the organisation of armed banditry, thus transforming it into the main weapon to attack and destabilise our country. They are the ones who organise the massacre of peaceful peasants, old people, children and pregnant women. They are the ones who order the most horrible maimings. They are the ones who order the setting alight of buses, trains and cars carrying passengers. They are the ones who order the destruction of schools, hospitals, health centres, shops and villages. They are the ones who order the armed bandits to destroy vehicles transporting food and medicine for the people affected by drought.

The blood of more than 100,000 Mozambicans, who are the direct victims of the war of aggression they carry out against our people, stains their hands. The actions of the South African warmongers have already caused Mozambique material damage totalling over 5.5 bn dollars. It was these bellicose, militarist and adventuresome forces who opposed the Incomati accord, deciding that it should not be observed and organising its systematic violation.

High-ranking civilian and military officials of the Pretoria regime are personally guiding the armed bandits. They personally visit their camps inside Mozambique, as was proved by the documents captured in Gorongosa. South African army experts direct the building of airstrips inside Mozambique, so that their aircraft can supply, equip and transport the armed bandits. They provide sophisticated transmission systems for the terrorists. They provide doctors and medicine to the terrorists. They give the terrorists precise orders - from the top of the South African military hierarchy - to destroy economic targets, massacre defenceless people and generally to practise terrorism.

When the Gorongosa bandit camp was taken, the South African warmongers transferred the armed bandit operational centre to Malawian territory. This operation was carried out with the active connivance of the Malawian authorities, who thus agreed to share in the crimes against our people.

The People's Republic of Mozambique, together with the other frontline states, showed the Malawian authorities evidence of their involvement in South Africa's aggression against our country. The Malawian government was forced to recognise the existence of armed bandit bases on its territory. The exposure of their operations from Malawi was an important and unexpected reverse for South African warmongery circles.

Almost simultaneously, the US Congress decided to impose economic sanctions against the apartheid regime. This decision was yet another defeat for those same circles; another unexpected defeat because they underestimated the democratic and progressive forces in the United States.

These successive major reverses have caused the South African militarists to act out of desperation. They are frantically seeking to disguise Malawi's role in the aggression against Mozambique and to find alternatives to the operational centres that they installed on Malawian territory.

In this context, they seek the immediate elimination of the Incomati accord, in order to neutralise those political segments of the South African government that want a negotiated settlement in the region and to allow the South African armed forces to command the bandits overtly and to intervene directly in the aggression against Mozambique. To this end, they engage in a farce in which they represent themselves as the victims, create motives for retaliation against Mozambique and even go so far as to hold our country responsible for the sanctions [imposed] by the US Congress, which were provoked by their own actions. The accused wants to become the accuser. The accused wants to try the judge.

It is with these ridiculous pretexts that the South African militarists are preparing direct aggression against our country by the South African armed forces, with the ultimate objective of creating conditions for the overthrow of the government of the People's Republic [of Mozambique] and the installation in Maputo of puppets in the pay of apartheid.

The People's Republic of Mozambique, adhering to the principles of its policy of peace and respect for its international responsibilities, has always scrupulously observed the letter and spirit of the Incomati accord. The firm determination of the Mozambican armed forces - FPLM - centres exclusively on the unyielding defence of our people's independence and sovereignty and our country's territorial integrity.

At a time when the South African warmongers are preparing a new phase in their escalation of aggression against our country, the government of the People's Republic of Mozambique calls on all Mozambican people to strengthen national unity, to increase their vigilance and to participate actively in the defence of our fatherland. Throughout the country we must prepare to respond victoriously to this new aggression. The FPLM forces, the people's militia, the people's vigilance groups and the Mozambican people as a whole must be on permanent alert from now on.

Both collectively - through integration into our grassroots - and individually, we must constitute an impenetrable barrier crushing every enemy action. We must be vigilant

at work, at home, at entertainment centres, at sports grounds and in all places and circumstances where there are concentrations of people that could be picked by the enemy as a target for their criminal actions.

The government of the People's Republic of Mozambique calls on everyone to participate actively in the defensive measures that are being implemented. To this end, the Mozambican government calls on all citizens to co-operate fully - as they have always done in the past - with civilian and military authorities to take the necessary steps to defend our threatened fatherland.

The government of the People's Republic of Mozambique trusts that the international community will support the strengthening of the country's military capabilities against aggression by the racist South Africa regime, which is our enemy, because it is the enemy of all mankind.

Our unity, determination and our love for the fatherland, which we freed with our blood, are invincible weapons. With them, and under the supervision of our party and government, we will defeat any enemy. With them, we will crush any aggression. Apartheid is a dying monster that history will soon eliminate and bury. We, the builders of peace, will live to build the radiant future we desire for our children. The struggle continues.