

The South African Raid into Mozambique on 30th January

Salisbury home service in English (i) 1115 GMT 31 Jan 81 (ii) 0500 GMT 1 February 1981 and (iii) 0400 GMT 2 February 1981

(i) Text of report including Robert Mugabe's statement (ME/6638/ii)

The Office of the Prime Minister has issued the following statement:

The unprovoked raid by the commandos of the South African Defence Force carried out yesterday in the Matola industrial area of Maputo was a naked act of aggression against our peace-loving neighbour and ally in the struggle for peace and democracy in our region. The invasion is part of the overall strategy of the apartheid regime to destabilize the democratic political order of the frontline states and must therefore be viewed and condemned in the context in which South African aggressive activities encompass the whole of our frontline region from the Indian Ocean to the Atlantic Ocean.

The statement went on to say: These aggressive activities include, in Mozambique, the sponsoring of the sabotage and subversion being carried out by the bandit RNM [Resistance Movement] group and, in Zimbabwe, the recent sabotage acts on our barracks by former Selous Scouts elements. In Zambia this included the promotion of the recent attempted coup, in Botswana, the recent unprovoked attack at (?Kazungula) and in Angola, the continuing military invasion by South African troops. The Government and people of Zimbabwe strongly condemn these barbarous acts that the apartheid regime is resorting to in defence of her racist and inhuman policies. Yesterday's attack on Mozambique is a signal warning to us not only to proceed with speed to strengthen our defence but also to consolidate our military alliance with our Mozambique brothers in defence of our political order and developing economies.

(ii) Text of report of Mugabe's message to President Machel of Mozambique:

The Prime Minister, Comrade Robert Mugabe, has told the Pretoria regime that any act of aggression committed against Mozambique will be considered hostile to Zimbabwe. In a message to the Mozambican President, Comrade Samora Machel, the Prime Minister also called on the international community to denounce strongly the racist regime for Friday's raid on refugee homes of the African National Congress at Matola near Maputo. The message said Zimbabweans read with great shock and dismay of the aggression and cold-blooded murders committed by bandits of the Pretoria regime against the People's Republic of Mozambique and the innocent refugees from South Africa.

The message continued: The Government of Zimbabwe condemns these barbaric acts of banditry and murder. It calls upon the international community to denounce these repeated acts being committed by the Pretoria racists against the frontline states. The people of Zimbabwe stand firm at the side of their Mozambican comrades and pledge their militant solidarity with the oppressed masses of Azania. The wanton acts of murder by the (?brigades) of the Pretoria regime will not deter Africa from her sacred duty to assist people of Azania and Namibia to attain their own freedom and independence.

(iii) Text of report of statement issued by the African National Congress of South Africa:

The African National Congress of South Africa has condemned the Pretoria regime's raid into Mozambique last Thursday [as heard] and describes it as a criminal act of banditry. A statement issued by the Secretary General of the ANC, Comrade Alfred Nzo, in Lusaka describes the attack as a continuation of the barbarous policy of the apartheid regime. The statement said these raids have resulted in the deaths of hundreds of people in Mozambique, Zambia and Angola. It added: This policy of mass murder once more confirmed the criminal nature of the apartheid regime, whose continued existence constitutes a challenge both to our people and the rest of democratic and peace-loving mankind. The statement added that the raid on Matola is part of the apartheid-ruled regime's policy which is aimed at destabilizing majority-rule states in the region.