

■ MOZAMBIQUE: Next, the Iron Fist

In the early morning hours of October 17, three bombs exploded on the terrace of the African National Congress headquarters in Maputo, injuring five people. Later that day, South Africa's Minister of Defense, Gen. Magnus Malan, said the raid had been only a "clinical" operation in retaliation for the A.N.C.'s destruction of three gas tanks in a Transvaal town on October 10. General Malan said his government had not yet used its "iron fist," adding pointedly, "Limpet mines and other bombs which explode inside South Africa do not just fall from the sky—they come here with the knowledge and cooperation of some of our neighboring states."

In a broadcast over Radio Maputo, Alos Mancu, a member of the A.N.C.'s National Executive Committee, responded to Malan's insinuation. "Our A.N.C. office in Maputo is like any other office of the A.N.C.—in London, Zambia and Tanzania," he said. "These offices are doing purely political work." Foreign journalists who toured the bombed-out office in a downtown apartment building found no weapons or ammunition. However, a BBC reporter discovered a memorandum that referred to the presence of A.N.C. "soldiers" in Mozambique. South African officials were quick to seize on it as support for their claims that A.N.C. fighters operate out of Mozambique.

While guerrillas are able to survive inside South Africa, some of them probably do seek sanctuary in neighboring countries, including Mozambique. But the regime in Maputo cannot acknowledge their presence without provoking South Africa's "iron fist." Mozambique has been plagued by attacks from the South African-financed Mozambique National Resistance. Hundreds of people have been killed within the past year as the attacks have escalated. Diplomatic sources in Maputo estimate that the M.N.R. has 5,000 guerrillas based in the Transvaal. Last August a group of thirty to forty M.N.R. soldiers raided the Morrua mining complex in the central province of Zambezia and killed two Soviet geologists, Victor Voronov and Minzakir Ziatdinov. An undeclared war for southern Africa has begun.