

ARB(P) 15/6/87

Commandos Raid Maputo

South African commandos attacked four targets near the centre of the Mozambican capital, Maputo, early on May 29th, killing three people. They were picked up by a boat waiting at a nearby beach.

The office of the African National Congress (ANC) and three houses were raided by the South Africans, according to the *Mozambican News Agency, AIM*.

The three people killed were all Mozambicans. One was a night watchman at a house used by South African refugees in transit. The other two were reported to be Mr. Antonio Pateguana, the brother-in-law of Mozambique's military chief of staff, and his wife.

The Pateguanas' two children, aged three and five, were reported to have been left alive.

Four cars with four men in each were used in the simultaneous dawn attacks in the Polana district, near the President's house according to *AIM*. One witness said that one of the attackers spoke fluent Portuguese and told him: "Disappear, we have work to do." Grenades were left outside the ANC office, according to ANC sources, but no one was killed there.

A spokeswoman for the South African Defence Force (SADF), refused to comment on "unsubstantiated allegations of involvement in incidents in Mozambique."

The attack came within hours of an ANC statement claiming responsibility for a double car bomb attack in Johannesburg on May 20th (p. 8514B) and pledging that its underground army, *Umkhonto We Sizwe*, "would continue to deliver blows against the enemy, using, as before, its units that are based within the country."

Four white constables were killed in the Johannesburg bombings and South African police had sworn to avenge the deaths of their comrades.

AIM later reported that the commandos left behind two pick-up trucks, a minibus, three grenades, ammunition and a smoke bomb.

Documents found in the abandoned minibus indicated that the three vehicles used by the attackers came from South Africa. The agency said the two pick-up trucks were partially destroyed by the commandos and left at the seashore near the minibus.

(GD 30/5, 1/6)