

MNR Spokesmen Says More Operations Planned
MB261701 London BBC World Service in English
1515 GMT 26 Sep 85

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[Text] Antigovernment guerrillas of the Mozambique National Resistance, the MNR, have claimed responsibility for yesterday's attack on an ammunition dump on the outskirts of Maputo. According to the Mozambique authorities, the explosion of the dump were caused by a fire, but the MNR says they were set off by a special battalion of their troops. The MNR claim comes in the wake of a series of recent setbacks. Last month, their main base camp in the Gorongosa mountains was overrun by government troops and more recently they lost another camp at Vuruca in Zambezia Province. On the line to Lisbon, Robin White put it to Jorge Correia, the MNR spokesman in Europe, that yesterday's attack was the desperate act of a guerrilla army in retreat:

[Begin recording] [Correia] Never. What is important, it is not outside of Maputo but inside Maputo because the military stores, they are in the suburbs of Maputo.

[White] How exactly did you manage to attack these ammunition dumps yesterday ?

[Correia] We infiltrated 270 men in the capital in several groups, and we attacked yesterday these store with commando special forces. We killed the guards with white arms [knives and other small steel weapons] and after, we took the dynamite in the stores and we exploded them.

[White] You say 270 men?

[Correia] Yes, in several groups.

[White] Where are those 270 men now?

[Correia] They, they are inside Maputo.

[White] They are still there?

[Correia] Sure, and we are going to press the groups to press the capital more several times.

[White] But what kind of clothes are they wearing? Are they wearing civilian clothes?

[Correia] Sure, now we are, we prepare more operations against the strategic points of Frelimo.

[White] Where did they come from. these 270 men? Do they come out of South Africa?

[Correia] Never. We never had men in South Africa. We don't need South Africa to win the war. We don't need South Africa to make the war.

[White] But only last week, the South African foreign minister, himself, was saying that he was helping you, that help had gone to you...

[Correia] But the minister, what he said ... he is a big liar. They are big liars. [End recording]