

Mozambique Reports Airspace Violations to Supply "Bandits"

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Text of report:

The Mozambican People's National Security Service [SNASP] revealed in Maputo today that in recent days Mozambican airspace in Manica province has been violated by aircraft which have been landing men and unloading war material. SNASP pointed out that the aircraft were indetical to South African planes which provided regular supplies of weapons to armed bandits in Gorongosa district before the capture of their principal base, Casa Banana, in August last year by Mozambican and Zimbabwean troops. Some of the aircraft detected recently have been landing on runways in Manica province, SNASP revealed.

These supplies to the armed bandits are being carried out at a period of continued violations of the Incomati accord by South Africa, a member of the Mozambican government connected with the Mozambican-South African joint

commission created following Incomati accord told AIM [Mozambique news agency]. These supplies are being provided in preparation for military actions against the Beira corridor, he added.

Following pressures by Zambia and Zimbabwe for economic sanctions against the Republic of South Africa during the recent Commonwealth mini-summit in London, the Pretoria government has drastically reduced the railway traffic of these two countries' goods to and from South African ports. Pretoria has also imposed a 25 per cent surcharge on goods from these two countries, thus increasing its aggression against neighbouring countries.

The Beira corridor which was already important for Zimbabwe became vital in that it is the only route capable of relieving the effects of Pretoria's action. In April, a donor conference was held in Beira during which a 130m dollars' worth of investment was pledged to rehabilitation projects for the communications routes linking that port city to Zimbabwe.

This week, it was announced that the Zambian and Tanzanian authorities had decided to give particular attention to the defence of Tazara [Tanzania-Zambia Railway Authority], which links Zambia to the port of Dar es Salaam. They fear that the South African armed forces might launch actions against this railway which is vital for Zambia. This followed the detention of South African spies in Zambia.

The violations of Mozabican air space in the central region are being carried out at a time when Nathan Shamuyarira, the Zimbabwean Information Minister, has warned international public opinion of the possibility of actions by Pretoria against the Non-aligned Movement summit due in Harare early in September.