

S African arms reach Mozambique

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THE FIRST shipment of a 10 million rand South African military aid package for Mozambique arrived in Beira aboard the South African Navy replenishment ship, SAS *Drakensberg* on 28 November.

The 'non-lethal' equipment is intended for a unit deployed to defend the power line from the Cahora Bassa hydro-electric scheme to South Africa.

This line has been extensively damaged by RENAMO guerrillas over the past few years. Along one 100 km stretch, all pylons have been brought down, and 500 pylons are down altogether, requiring a major effort to repair.

South Africa, Mozambique and Portugal recently reached an agreement on the funding

of the repair and protection of the power line, including the provision by South Africa of non-lethal military equipment to Mozambique.

The shipment delivered on 28 November included 30 Samil-50 five tonne trucks, 4 Samil-20 2 tonne trucks and 5 light utility vehicles with comprehensive spares packages, 42 military radios with ancillary equipment, 500 complete sets of uniforms and webbing, and 1000 blankets.

A further shipment will include 750 000 ration packs and medical equipment and stores to the value of 94 000 rand. A South African Army training team has been set up in Mozambique to assist with the introduction of the vehicles and radios.