

Radio Report

Mozambique: Operations against "Armed Gangsters"

Maputo home service in Portuguese (i) 0430 gmt 24 Sep 82 (ii) 1030 gmt 25 Sep 82

(i) AIM, the Mozambican news agency, reported yesterday that in the last three days the Mozambican Armed Forces, FPLM, had shot dead at least 19 individuals in the armed gangs in the pay of the racist Pretoria regime. Quoting military sources, the agency said the FPLM activity had taken place in the Provinces of Gaza, Inhambane, Manica, Sofala and Zambezia, where three camps of the armed gangsters were destroyed and occupied.

Last Monday [20th September], the FPLM launched a successful attack on an enemy base south of Machaze, in Manica, during which two bandits were killed and one captured. The captured individual was thought to be the chief of the gangsters in the area. During the action our forces also captured seven machine-guns, two heavy machine-gun magazines, and four cases of ammunition.

On the same day an FPLM unit attacked an armed gang which was attempting to cross the Chimoió-Beira national highway, in the area between Gondola and Amatongas. Also, on Monday, the Mozambican Armed Forces attacked armed gangsters in the Mapai area in Gaza Province. In Maconjo, in Inhambane Province, one armed gang suffered an even greater number of casualties.

On Tuesday [21st September] in Gorongoza township, Sofala Province, the FPLM captured a bandit and attacked a gangster camp in an area south of Estaquinha, where our forces burnt down all the huts in the bandits' camp. Our forces also captured various items of war equipment. In the Vila Paiva de Andrade region, also in Sofala, on Wednesday, our forces killed seven collaborating elements known as "men of the sword and joint actions". On the same day a camp of the armed gangsters was destroyed in Zambezia Province.

(ii) Since the beginning of this year 777 armed bandits have been killed by the Mozambican armed forces, the FPLM, in the central and southern provinces of the country. That was reported by the 'Tempo' weekly magazine in its latest issue. In the same period the People's Forces for the Liberation of Mozambique wounded 35 and captured 194 members of the armed gangs, who are supported and trained by South Africa. Still according to 'Tempo', in the period between 1st January and 8th September the Mozambique armed forces destroyed 42 enemy bases and freed members of the public who had been kidnapped by the armed gangsters.

In these operations undertaken by the FPLM, various items of war materiel were captured and items that had been stolen from shops, including both state and private concerns, were retrieved.