

MNR schemes

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investigated?

Maputo, Monday.
PORTUGUESE authorities are reported to be investigating the activities of people suspected of having links with the self-styled "Mozambique National Resistance (MNR)".

Over the last few years, the Portuguese capital — Lisbon — has been one of the main outlets for propaganda against the People's Republic of Mozambique by Pretoria and the MNR, sources told the Mozambican Information Agency, AIM.

The investigations into the MNR are being made at the same time as inquiries are being made about Angolan residents in Portugal who are suspected of links with "Operation Kubango" — a military operation mounted by the Pretoria regime to destabilise the legitimate MPLA government, AIM said.

About a dozen people in Lisbon are suspected of involvement in "Operation Kubango", which was recently exposed by the Portuguese weekly *Expresso*.

Last Friday's edition of the Portuguese weekly *Journal* quoted unidentified Portuguese government sources as confirming that investigations into anti-Mozambican activities in Lisbon had been ordered.

Journal quoted the government sources as saying "the administration wants to make clear" its position against "any activity that means unwarranted interference in the internal affairs of the People's Republic of Mozambique, or which might in any way affect the excellent relations that Portugal maintains with that country."

The MNR was created in Ian Smith's Rhodesia. A large part of South Africa's propaganda on the group has come out of Lisbon. Information on the actions of the armed groups in Mozambique is radioed to South Africa and from there to Lisbon. Orders on what to announce and how are transmitted to Lisbon from South Africa.

Since the visits to Mozambique of Portuguese President Ramalho Eanes in November last year and Portuguese Prime Minister Pinto Balsemão last June, the propaganda has begun to include threats against Portugal and against Portuguese citizens working in Mozambique.

When the Portuguese prime minister visited Mozambique, President Samora Machel told the dozens of Portuguese businessmen in the delegation

that Mozambique could be a gateway to southern Africa for them.

Understanding this point has prompted Portuguese Interior Minister Angelo Correia and Foreign Minister Futscher Pereira to make public statements against the use of Portugal as a launching pad for attacks against Mozambique.

Meanwhile, the situation stays the same in practical terms. Last month, the heads of state of Angola, Cape Verde, Guinea Bissau, Mozambique and Sao Tome and Principe met in the Cape Verdean capital. In a declaration issued at the end of the meeting, the five presidents pointed out that "certain countries with which our states maintain normal relations of friendship, allow their territory to be used as a base for support for the preparation of subversive and terrorist acts against us. We consider that toleration of such acts that result in death and the destruction of property, in practice becomes complicity with those who attack our peoples".

This was interpreted as a reference to Portugal and as a warning that, if the Portuguese authorities did not do something about it, the excellent relations with Portugal and the growing penetration by Portugal of the markets in the five countries and in the regions where they have influence could be seriously affected.

The latest reports from Lisbon say that the investigations by the Portuguese authorities are almost exclusively into a certain Evo Fernandes, who is used by Pretoria as an "MNR spokesman".