Machel's talks with diplomats about "armed gangsters" Maputo radio reported that at a meeting with the President on 31st January, the Cuban Ambassador, the doven of the diplomatic corps, and the Ambassadors of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council - France, Britain, China, the USSR and the USA - had agreed to pursue efforts to find the best ways of giving individual or collective support to Mozambique for the struggle against the armed gangsters and for the consolidation of security in the region. The meeting had been held in a spirit of friendship, the radio said and recalled the President's earlier meeting with the diplomats on 6th January (see Section B to ME/7227).

Earlier on 31st January, Maputo radio said, President Machel had returned to the capital from his two-week visit to Cabo Delgado Province where he had said the struggle against hunger should be the main concern of the authorities.