

Mozambican rebels kill two Russians and kidnap 24

Citizen 26/8/83

LISBON. — Mozambique's Defence Ministry has confirmed rebels killed two Soviet geologists and kidnaped 24 others at a mining complex in the central Zambezia province on Sunday, reports

reaching Lisbon said yesterday.

A dispatch carried by the Mozambican national

news agency (AIM) said a Defence Ministry statement released yesterday reported two Mozambi-

can militia members had also died in the attack by guerrillas of the Mozambican National Resistance (MNR).

The militiamen were killed defending installations at the Morrua mines, while the Russians died in a hail of automatic weapons fire in their living quarters.

Four Mozambican technicians, including two women, were also kidnapped at the site, 200 km north of the provincial capital of Quelimane.

The ministry described the attack on resident foreign workers as "the strategy of the militarist regime of South Africa."

Repeating claims the MNR was backed by South Africa, the ministry alleged such attacks displayed Pretoria's goals of "destroying the foundations of Mozambique's economy and trying to draw further forces into South Africa's undeclared war against the peoples of Southern Africa."

MNR rebels kidnapped six Bulgarians in the same region last year, with government troops freeing the group days later.