

**Inhambane Camp Destroyed**

MB070554 Maputo in English to Southern Africa  
1800 GMT 6 Aug 85

7/8/85  
FBIS-MEA-85-152

[Text] The Mozambican Armed Forces have captured a major base of the MNR bandits in the south of the country. Several journalists were flown to the camp several weeks after it was captured. The base was at (Chicococha), some 300 km north of Maputo in Inhambane Province. In an interview with AIM, army officers say the camp appears to have served as a strategic center for MNR operations in Gaza, Inhambane, and Maputo Provinces. AIM says the base was set up in mid-1984 after the MNR had been pushed out of northern areas, in particular their main base at Tome, destroyed by Mozambican forces in 1983. AIM says living conditions for the bandits and peasants they forced to live with them were poor because the base was in such [word indistinct] terrain. The bandits were said to consider the base unpenetrable.

The joint military operation, including troops from Gaza and Inhambane Provinces, stormed (Chicococha) on 23 June in time to coincide with the 10th anniversary of Mozambican independence celebrations on 25 June. AIM says the camp was attacked by helicopters and pounded by heavy artillery for 2 days when the infantry was sent in. A captain at the camp, Jonas Mukavele, says he thinks 100 bandits died in the attack. People who used to live in the town are beginning to return to it and AIM says the numbers are rising daily. A brigade of the Mozambican Red Cross has been delivering emergency food and clothes to them since the end of June using [words indistinct] through the bush with the supplies.

An MNR bandit captured at the camp, Jose Vasco Macamo, says the bandits were waiting for fresh material and new instructions. Macamo says orders were received by radio and military instructions for operations were given after radio contact with other locations. However, he says he does not know where these locations were.

In today's edition of a daily newspaper, *NOTICIAS*, pictures of piles of human bones of the bandits murdered by the disliked commander of the base are shown. AIM reported that Nyambi, the MNR commander and an ex-sergeant of the Mozambican forces, was disliked because of conditions of the camp and he had ordered anyone who defied his orders to be killed.

The military commander of the Province of Gaza, General Fernando Matavele, says the secret of the war lies in mobilizing and organizing the people and that weapons had been distributed to the people of Gaza. Gen Matavele also says most areas of his province are now safe, except the district of Massingir in the west.