

## MOZAMBIQUE

**Armed Forces Capture MNR Headquarters**  
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[Text] The so-called operational headquarters of the armed bandits in the Gorongosa mountains was taken by assault in a joint operation by Mozambican and Zimbabwean troops. President Samora Machel, who visited the place yesterday, told the press that the capture of the main base of the armed bandits in the Gorongosa plateau was a very important step in these operations to annihilate the armed bandits. We took the base in 5 hours. We have broken the backbone of the snake and we will continue until we catch its head, said President Samora Machel.

According to our correspondent, the joint Mozambique-Zimbabwe operations started on 1 July, and in addition to the capture of the main base, these forces captured other bases in the area. Thus the Muchamba base, south of Chimoio, which protected the sabotage operations in the region of the railroad and the Beira-Machipanda pipeline, was also captured by the joint Mozambique-Zimbabwe forces. An airstrip about 800 meters long, which allowed the landing of Dakota planes to supply the Gorongosa base with war materiel, was occupied by our forces, which we verified on the spot. The (Rungo) base, south of the operational headquarters, also known as the Banana House, also fell into the hands of our forces. The quantity of war materiel captured at this and other bandit bases is estimated in the hundreds of tons, and included ammunition, assorted weaponry, and transmitters and receivers. This war equipment could have sustained the guerilla warfare for 3 consecutive years.

We have just received information from our correspondent from Gorongosa, that the Gogogo base, where the bandits have what they called a military academy, is being besieged by the joint Mozambique-Zimbabwe force while mopping-up operations are continuing around this base to annihilate any vestiges of the bandits.

Yesterday, President Samora Machel met the Chimoio population and he urged them to make Manica and Sofala Provinces the graveyard of the armed bandits. In this meeting, which was attended by about 20,000 people, President Machel explained once more the nature of the armed bandits, and he stressed that we must fight them until the end, because only then can we avoid a generation of bandits. President Machel then referred to the meeting with Julius Nyerere and Robert Mugabe in Harare, where they discussed the best way to annihilate armed banditry in Africa. Before this mass rally, President Machel had visited some operational centers in Manica Province. At those meetings, President Machel received several donations to strengthen the military capability of the country.