

Radio Report (abr)

Machel Says "Armed Bandits" Hurt Malawi as Well as Mozambique

Maputo in English for southern Africa 1800 gmt 16 Dec 85

Text of report:

President Samora Machel today once more accused South Africa of using the MNR [Mozambique National Resistance] terrorists to sabotage the Mozambican economy and to frustrate the growth of SADCC [South African Development Co-ordination Conference]. President Samora Machel repeated the accusation while accepting the credentials of the new Malawian ambassador to Mozambique, McLean Machinjili. He said the aggressive acts of the apartheid regime cover all of southern Africa, either through direct aggression or by using bandit gangs as an extension of its army. President Machel pointed out that MNR banditry also had damaging effects of Malawi because of that country's natural exit to the sea are the rail links to the Mozambican ports of Beira and Nacala which have been targets of the MNR bandits. The Mozambican leader said that banditry directly affects the growth of bilateral economic relations between Mozambique and Malawi and damages the social well being, progress, and happiness of the peoples of the two countries.

Mr Machinjili, who served as Malawi's ambassador to South Africa from 1978 to 1982, said his government was very sad at the continued activities of the enemies of Mozambique. He said he regretted attempts by elements hostile to the development of cordial relations between Mozambique and Malawi to associate Malawi with the activities of anti-Frelimo bandits. Mr Machinjili pledged Malawi's respect for the sovereignty of other states and non-interference in their internal affairs.

[Note: Reporting the same ceremony, Maputo home service (1700 gmt 16 Dec 85) said: (Excerpt) . . . Machinjili said that his government appreciates the role played by Mozambique in SADCC and that Malawi does not support nor allow the enemies that destabilise our country to use Malawian territory. He said that the Malawi authorities are determined totally to fulfil the general accord of co-operation which was signed in October 1984 when President Samora Machel toured Malawi.]

On 6th December the Malawi government dismissed as "malicious" press and radio reports circulating in Mozambique that MNR bandits were using Malawi as a base, Blantyre radio reported.