

Mozambique Calls on Malawi to Stop Helping MNR

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Text of commentary:

In June this year a British television channel showed a film about South Africa's MNR [Mozambique National Resistance] terrorists in Mozambique. It was a propaganda film in support of the terrorists. The film was made by a group of right-wing journalists who entered the country illegally with a terrorist group. Apart from the television film, a series of articles have been written by the clandestine visitors and published in South African and Western newspapers and magazines. These journalists or propagandists entered the Mozambican province of Zambezia accompanied by the terrorists.

An obvious question arises: How did the terrorists and their friends get into Mozambique's Zambezia province? Over which border? There are four possible ways. Zambezia has a coastline so they could have come by sea, or, with a little help from the South African Air Force, they could have come in by air. Another possibility is that they could have entered Zambezia province from some other part of Mozambique. The fourth possible way of entering Zambezia province is to cross the border from a neighbouring country and there is only one country which has a border with Zambezia province - Malawi.

The film shown on British television makes no attempt to conceal the answer to the question. The film includes a map which makes it clear that the group entered Mozambique from Malawi. That the MNR terrorists use the Malawian territory as a springboard for attacks on Mozambique has been known to the Mozambican authorities for several years. This has been said publicly by Mozambican ministers and by President Samora Machel during his visit to Japan this year.

What is interesting is that the South African propaganda machine is making no attempt to conceal the fact that the terrorists are entering Mozambique through Malawi. The map that appeared on British television cannot have been a slip-up. The South African authorities, who were behind the film, wanted it to be known that Malawi, and not South Africa, was the starting point. South Africa has to try to keep its support for the terrorists in Africa as secret as possible because any group which is seen to be supported by Pretoria, is immediately tainted with the stigma of apartheid. What Pretoria is now doing, therefore, is using the influence which it has in certain African countries to allow terrorists to operate from there. Africa is to take the blame.

Malawian territory is being used by South Africa to infiltrate terrorists into Mozambique. The objective is to make it appear to the world that a black government, and not a white racist regime, provides the principal support for the attack on Mozambique. This is not a healthy situation in the region. It could lead to misunderstanding and even a dispute among African governments.

Today's meeting in Malawi provides the opportunity to avoid such difficulties. Under the wise leadership of Life President Kamuzu Banda, the Malawian authorities will know the correct course of action to take.