

Malawi Government Denies Harboursing MNR "Bandits"

Blantyre home service in English 1600 gmt 13 Oct 86

Text of report:

The Malawi government has denied allegations and accusations made against it by certain quarters (?this weekend) that it is using its territory as base for MNR bandits against the Mozambican government.

In a statement released by the Malawi government in Lilongwe today, [13th [13th October], it was reiterated that on the question of MNR bandits in Mozambique, the Malawi government's position has never changed. The statement said the government of Malawi is not aware of any incidents which involve MNR bandits carrying out acts of war sabotage from Malawi into Mozambique. As a matter of policy and practice, the statement went on, Malawi does not allow any type of action which might endanger the peace, security and stability of her neighbours, nor the use of her territory as a base for any organisation or group to launch violent acts, terrorism or aggression against her neighbours.

The recent [words indistinct] is enough evidence that MNR bandits [words indistinct], reported heavy [word indistinct], do not in fact operate from Malawi, the statement pointed out. The statement emphasised that, as a landlocked country, Malawi has nothing whatsoever to gain from the MNR banditry activities in Mozambique. If anything at all, these activities are as much a problem for Malawi as they are a problem for Mozambique. The statement said indeed the MNR banditry had adversely affected the (?economy) and therefore the economic situation of Malawi.

[Note: Johannesburg home service (in English 1500 gmt 13 Oct 86) reported: (Excerpt) The Renamo [MNR] movement in Mozambique says that it has no bases in Malawi, and that is not using that country as a springboard from which to launch attacks against Mozambique government forces. Our Africa news desk reports that this statement was released in Lisbon, Portugal, in the wake of accusations by the governments of several southern African states that Malawi was aiding the Renamo movement against the Machel government. . .]