

● The UK will continue its military assistance programme to Mozambique and also provide Malawi with non-lethal military help, UK Minister of State at the Foreign & Commonwealth Office Lynda Chalker announced during her eight-day visit to the two countries, which ended in Lilongwe on 4 December. The UK's Zimbabwe-based military training programme for Mozambique would be maintained, she said, as would supplies of non-lethal equipment — mostly telecommunications hardware linking military bases with the country's rail network, one of the prime targets for attack by Mozambique National Resistance (MNR) rebels. The £750,000 (\$1.4 million) worth of non-lethal military equipment announced for Malawi will also be used to help protect its rail link through Mozambique with Nacala port. During Chalker's visit to Malawi, which started on 1 December, it was hinted that UK military personnel might soon be sent to advise on the security of the line. In addition to the new military support, Chalker also announced that the UK had provided £1 million (\$1.8 million) through the UN World Food Programme to help Malawi combat the effects of the recent drought, and cope with the estimated 370,000 Mozambican refugees.

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