

# ANR base <sup>CHRONICLE</sup> 29-12-87 overrun on Christmas Eve

MAPUTO — The army overran the principal Gaza province base of the Mozambican National Resistance bandits on Christmas Eve, the newspaper, *Noticias*, reported yesterday.

The article said the bandits had occupied Nhanala in June, turning the town 100 km north of the capital into their provincial base.

The town, 90 km north of the government's Gaza province military command in Mutema, was used for mountain attacks on routes in the area, including the main north-south highway from Gaza to Maputo, and the national news agency, AEM.

The report said the bandits also used Nhanala as a base for attacks on the Limpopo railway line which links Zimbabwe to Maputo port.

South Africa is continuing to support the MNR in violation of a 1984

peace accord in order to destabilise Mozambique and force countries like Zimbabwe to use South African ports.

*Noticias* said the capture of Nhanala involved four Mozambican forces' units, including a special commando unit, converging on the base from different parts of Chibuto district.

The report said there were 14 clashes between government troops and the bandits during the attack in swampy terrain, and the decisive assault was launched last Thursday.

"The fighting only lasted for 15 minutes, before the bandits broke and ran," said the AIM report. It said 18 bandits were killed, but did not give a figure for government casualties.

The report said the bandits tried to recapture Nhanala on Friday and Saturday in four attacks, but were driven back.

The *Noticias* report said there were 1 000 huts at the base. — Ziana-AP.