

MNR Zimbabwe attacks 'got SA nod'

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A SOUTH AFRICAN brigadier "gave the green light" for the MNR bandits to begin armed operations inside Zimbabwe, a former MNR Western European spokesman, Paulo Oliveira, told a Press conference in Maputo on Wednesday.

"In 1983 I observed that there were elements from Zimbabwe in several MNR bases inside South Africa," Oliveira said. "In 1986 when Jorge Correia and Artur Janeiro da Fonseca went to the United States, they had a meeting with Ndabaningi Sithole in which they tried to reach a compromise strategy between their two armed groups."

Fonseca is the MNR's external relations secretary, while Correia was Oliveira's predecessor as Western European spokesman.

Asked who gave the orders for the massacres

committed by the MNR in southern Mozambique over the past nine months or so, Oliveira said that, in general, the targets for MNR actions are chosen by the South African military.

Speaking about the death of former MNR general secretary Orlando Cristina in 1983 near Pretoria, Oliveira said he believed Cristina "was killed by the South Africans", and that the murder took place "when Cristina no longer served the purpose of South African military intelligence".

Oliveira also said he believed that the South African military were behind the deaths of two other MNR leaders, Joao Ataide and Mateus Lopes, who died in a mysterious car accident late in 1987.

The South Africans distrusted them, he said, "because they disagreed with Pretoria's influence over the MNR".

As for the two brothers, Adriano and Boaventura Bomba, both of whom had sat on the MNR's national council in 1983, Oliveira thinks that the South Africans arranged their removal by having them blamed for Cristina's death,

Oliveira said Malawi had "closed its eyes" to the presence of South Africa's MNR bandits in its territory. The bandits "have no great problems" in passing through Malawi.

He spoke of a trader "named Gilberto Fernandes, but whose real name is Magid", who is a "Renamo element" inside Malawi "with strong links to the South African secret services".

Oliveira said that goods looted in Mozambique pass through Malawi, including ivory poached by the MNR. — Ziana-AIM-Pana.