

SA troops helping bandits, says KK

CH 88-03-22/

X

LUSAKA — Zambia's President Dr Kenneth Kaunda yesterday charged that South African soldiers were fighting alongside MNR bandits to topple the Mozambique government.

"In Angola and Mozambique, South African soldiers are now fighting alongside UNITA and MNR bandits," Dr Kaunda told delegates attending a three-day conference organised by the Association of West European Parliamentarians for Action against Apartheid.

Although there has been previous charges of South Africa supplying MNR bandits with military supplies, this is probably the first categoric accusation that South Africa is fighting in Mozambique.

South Africa has admitted fighting in Angola, but has said nothing about Mozambique.

"We face a very serious situation in Southern Africa," said President Kaunda, adding that the refugee problem had reached serious and alarming proportions in the region because of apartheid.

Zambia had about 145 000 refugees and was working with the United Nations High Commission for Refugees to assist the refugees, he said.

Abandoning his prepared speech, the Zambian leader ridiculed explanations by some Western governments that comprehensive economic sanctions would not work against South Africa, but serve to further impoverish the blacks.

Singling out the British and Federal German governments, Dr Kaunda said both countries were only interested in protecting their interests in South Africa.

He warned that these investments would go up in flames if the two governments did not act quickly against apartheid and avert a possible explosion in South Africa.

Denying that he was a "racist", the Zambian leader said the decision by some Western governments not to impose sanctions against South Africa could have been motivated by racism.

"How is it that when something happened in Poland, economic sanctions were applied and over here sanctions don't work?"

"Cuba has permanent economic sanctions, Nicaragua has permanent economic sanctions and yet the Reagan administration says sanctions don't work," he said, adding that he was tempted to conclude that this was because the victims were black. — Ziana-Shihata.