

MNR

atrocities

THE American report on Mozambique which we published yesterday is a damning indictment of the bandit MNR. Its conclusion, though, that the MNR is a terrorist organisation that has no political programme has been made before by the Mozambican and Frontline governments.

These conclusions have been treated with contempt, particularly in America by rightwing politicians who see the MNR as a pro-West nationalist movement that is out to prevent the spread of communism.

There may be a few things in the report that the Mozambican government will disagree with, like the suggestion that the MNR has occupied certain areas and that 225 000 Mozambicans have found refuge in South Africa. These "inaccuracies" are minor compared with the true picture that the report paints.

The suffering, death and destruction caused by the MNR is obvious. It is there for anyone to see. What is not there for just everyone to see and which the American report so pointedly left out is the South African involvement in this very sad saga.

Or were the authors of the report careful not to antagonise the same powerful rightwingers who also see in the brutal South African regime a valuable anti-communist ally who has to be kept going at any cost?

The Mozambican report, given the necessary publicity in the United States, should increase the general public's awareness of the suffering of the innocent civilian population in the Frontline state. But it would have been better if it had gone further and, just as independently, sought the source of all this suffering.

However, now that the American administration is better informed about the MNR's activities, will it finally invoke the Anti-Terrorism Act signed into law last year by President Reagan and ban the activities of the MNR in the US?

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