Private Force To Protect Maputo-RSA Railway MB0206101488 Johannesburg THE STAR in English 2 Jun 88 p 3

[Text] Maputo — A private security force of the Mozambique Railways is ready to go into action to reduce acts of sabotage on the Maputo/South Africa railway line.

Sources in Maputo said the security force, trained by Western experts in the northern province of Niassa, should go into operation soon. It will operate independently from the Mozambican Army.

In addition, Zimbabwean troops have moved into southern Mozambique to protect teams repairing the Limpopo line linking Maputo to Zimbabwe.

No details about the foreigners involved in the training of the force have been given.

Strong rumours about private American security experts being involved in the project were dismissed by U.S. diplomatic sources in Maputo

The United States Administration has been barred by Congress from giving any military aid to Mozambique and recently the government strongly denied reports from right-wing groups in Washington that it had sent arms to Mozambique.

A spokesman for the American Embassy said there were no official American security experts in Mozambique and nobody had heard of any private American individuals being involved in it.

Private British security experts, said to be former SAS members, have been reported to be involved in the training of security personnel for the protection of the Nacala railway line which links Malawi to the port of Nacala.