

IN BRIEF

AED 17/6/86

● The army, supported by a contingent of Zimbabwean troops, has retaken the northern border town of Milange in Zambezia province, Portuguese news agency Lusa reported on 7 June, quoting military sources in Maputo. The town was recaptured on 4 June, together with the neighbouring villages of Tacuane, Lingue, Chilomo, Mongue and Munhamade, the sources said. The success of the joint offensive represents a major setback for the rebel Mozambique National Resistance (MNR), which has held Milange since 1986 and used it as a main base for its attacks in the north. The military sources would not provide casualty figures, but the MNR claimed in the week ending 3 June that it had killed 47 Mozambican, seven Zimbabwean and 12 Tanzanian soldiers and two British paratroopers during the offensive. The presence of UK troops in Mozambique was strongly denied on 5 June by ambassador to Maputo James Allan. It is not thought that Tanzanian troops were involved in this particular action, although they have been helping in the north. The MNR had not commented on the reported government success as AED went to press. However, in a communique issued in Lisbon on 8 June, it announced a decision "to forbid" the movement of International Committee of the Red Cross personnel, vehicles and aircraft in Zambezia, Nampula and Manica provinces.