

MNR rebels kill 7

Tsf Z 28/4/89

MAPUTO,
Thursday,
SOUTH African
backed MNR bandits killed seven people and wounded 21 others in an attack on Manica, 75 km north of here.

Five of the 21 wounded are in serious condition in hos-

pitals in Manica and Maputo. One of the wounded is a child of seven.

The attack on Monday, which struck at three different places began at 20.30 local time and continued until the early hours of Tuesday morning.

The bandits looted and damaged six shops and destroyed a number of houses.

They burnt a bus

belonging to Romos, a state firm and two pick-up trucks. The bus was used to take students to and from schools.

The raiders left behind pamphlets claiming that the attack had taken place because the local people are unwilling to accept an agreement with the MNR in Maragra, six kilometres from Manica,

Last Friday in a rally in Manica, Mozambican President Joaquim Chissano asked people

whether they would like him as head of state to set up negotiations with the MNR bandits that would allow members of the rebels to run for government positions in "free elections".

The response from the people was a resounding "no".

"If they are murdering us now, what will happen to us if they are governing us? They will force us to clean latrines with our mouths," rejoined a woman in the crowd that

day. Every other person who spoke agreed with her.

Life has returned to normal in Manica, where people are now working to reconstruct their burnt houses and shops.

This is the second attack in less than a week that has come to the attention of the media. Last Friday night three militiamen were killed when the bandits destroyed a fruit warehouse in central Manica province.

— Zana/Xinhua.