

Chronology of MNR Atrocities

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Col. Rosa de Oliveira, an SADF officer of Portuguese origin, has been transferred to Lisbon. Oliveira is reportedly a close ally of General (sic) Charles van Niekerk and his transfer to Portugal is apparently aimed at reactivating the Lisbon Renamo office and tightening contacts with the SA military. Col. Oliveira also has the task of reducing the influence within Renamo of Thomas Schaaf. Oliveira, who works with other military reserve people for the Mitlex construction firm, had been commissioned in 1973 by DGS to train special units to fight Frelimo.

The Guardian 14/1/1989

Article by Paul Fauvet quotes Mozambican refugees returning from SA saying that SA was continuing to support the MNR bandits. The former refugees fled to SA in December to escape an MNR raid against villages in the Mapulanguene area, 110 miles north of Maputo and six miles from the SA border. On the day after their arrival in SA they saw SADF soldiers talking to an MNR group at the border gate and promised to return the refugees to MNR hands. When the refugees refused, they were bundled into trucks and taken to the SADF at Skukuza. Here they were divided into groups and interrogated. One, Eduardo Tivane, said that a white officer tried to persuade him to join the MNR. He believes he was saved by demands from other refugees for his release. Tivane declared, "South Africa is still supporting the bandits. This base near Skukuza is very big. They have lots of armed black Mozambicans there, and South African soldiers too". Other refugees spoke of how the MNR moved freely over the border near Mapulanguene. Trading flourished between SA soldiers and the bandits. The refugees were convinced that Skukuza controlled logistics for the MNR operations in the northern part of Maputo Province.

Noticias 26/1/1989

The joint security commission held its third meeting since the Songo summit on January 25 at the Pequenos Libombos dam site. A source close to the Mozambican delegation said that the meeting had "advanced points". The meeting analysed charges that armed bandits continued to receive support from SA territory. In the past week refugees returning from SA spoke of SA officers trying to encourage them to join the bandits. Gen. A. J. Liebenberg said on his departure from Maputo airport that this question would be investigated. Concerning investigations promised in November about forces in SA continuing to support armed banditry, Liebenberg said these were proceeding and Mozambique had been invited to co-operate. On Cahora Bassa, he said this was a matter for another commission. No communique was released. AIM, meanwhile, quoted residents of border areas saying that bandits were continuing to infiltrate from Malawi.

The most recent data on the emergency reveals that the numbers affected have risen slightly to around 4 million. This emerged during the course of a technical meeting of the UN inter-agencies mission which is preparing for the 1989/90 appeal which will be launched in March.

Southscan 25/1/1989

The President of the People's Assembly, Marcelino dos Santos, said in a speech on January 18 that the MNR were not capable of knocking down the more than 600 Cahora Bassa pylons sabotaged in recent months. He said that "special forces of the South African army" were responsible for the sabotage.

Minister of Co-operation, Jacinto Veloso, said that 20 Mozambican relief drivers had been killed in the last 18 months. Figures from mid-1988 indicated that the number of people affected by the emergency had risen. There were 1,1 million displaced people in the country, a

further 2,2 million were "affected" and the entire urban population of 2,6 million needed food aid. The number of returnees would increase in 1989 following the signing of an agreement with the UNHCR and Malawi in December.

Mozambique File, No. 150, January 1989

Transmission lines were sabotaged on December 30 for the fifth time in two months – the previous occasions were on October 28, November 3, November 15 and December 19.

Noticias 7/2/1989

At least 1 person was killed and 16 injured following a bandit attack on a train travelling from SA on the afternoon of February 5. The attack took place near Movene, 55 kms northwest of Maputo City.

Noticias 10/2/1989

Three women who escaped from bandit captivity said that the bandits have moved their camp from Matsequenha in the Namaacha district (near the SA border) to Catuane in the Matutuine district (also near the SA border). Bandits operating in the Manhica area used frequently to come to the camp at Matsequenha to be resupplied.

Noticias 13/2/1989

A group of armed bandits caused widespread destruction at the Ilha Josina Machel in the Manhica district of Maputo province on February 11. 1 person was killed and a militia member seriously wounded.

Noticias 18/2/1989

Seven people were killed and 41 injured during a bandit attack on a train travelling from SA. The attack took place near Movene 55 km north of Maputo City.

Noticias 21/2/1989

SA planes were continuing to re-supply bandits at least up until November, according to Moises Macaxaze, a captured bandit speaking to "Radio Mozambique".

Macaxaze said that he saw a SA plane re-supplying bandits in the Chibuto district of Gaza province on November 12. The plane dropped anti-tank and anti-personnel mines, mortars and ammunition. Macaxaze was captured in Chimoio during a reconnaissance operation. These declarations are consistent with the increase in armed bandit attacks in the south. All the acts of sabotage of electricity pylons between SA and Maputo which took place between October and January occurred around 5 kms from the SA border.

Eleven people were killed and 39 wounded in an attack against the district headquarters of Magude in Maputo province on February 16.

Noticias 22/2/1989

Two black SADF soldiers participated in a bandit attack on Chibuto in Gaza province last December 12, according to Moises Macaxaze. During this attack 30 civilians died, and the hospital was looted. The bandits lost 19 men. Macaxaze said 5 SA soldiers – 3 blacks and 2 whites – were at the base in Gaza at which he was stationed. They were specialists in explosives and their task was to train bandits to sabotage bridges, railway lines and power lines. One of these was killed in December. His body was transported to base by bandits and later flown to SA. Macaxaze said he knew of SA military personnel operating with bandits in the districts of Buzi and Machanga in Sofala province and Machaze in Manica province.

Noticias 25/2/1989

Armed bandits attacked the Macia district headquarters, 145 km from Maputo, on February 20 killing 20 people. The bandits attempted further attacks on February 22 and 23 but were unsuccessful due to prompt action by the security forces.

Noticias 27/2/1989

One hundred and forty-five bandits were killed in security force actions in Inhambane province during January and the first two weeks of February, according to an official communique. 500 bandits infiltrated the province during January in three groups.

Noticias 28/2/1989

Oliviera Transport Service has re-initiated its service to Gaza suspended for about a year due to security problems. 32 of the firm's 50 buses were destroyed by bandit action. Only 8 are currently operational.

AIM Mozambique File, No. 151, February 1989

Four months after the Songo summit, the eastern Transvaal remains a launching pad for the MNR. That is the only conclusion to be drawn from the testimony of Mozambicans who returned from SA after fleeing a bandit attack at Mapulanguene on December 4. Five weeks later, at a centre for displaced people at Xipamanine, some of these people told AIM about attempts to recruit them for the MNR at an SADF base at Skukuza. Eduardo Tivane, a 25-year old clerk in the Mapulanguene local administration who spent 2 days in Skukuza prison, said, "South Africa is still supporting the bandits. This centre near Skukuza is big. They have lots of armed black Mozambicans there and also South African soldiers". Tivane said everyone in Mapulanguene knew that when the bandits were attacked they fled across the border to a base in SA. Aurelio Lhanguene said a black SA policeman told him that he had entered Mozambican territory after a Mozambican airforce attack against a bandit camp at Ngungue. The policeman spoke of trade in things that bandits had stolen in Mozambique, saying it was very cheap to buy things from the MNR.

This testimony was raised during the meeting of the JSC held at the Pequenos Libombos dam site on January 25. Lt. Gen. A. J. Liebenberg confirmed that the Skukuza incident had been raised and promised to investigate it. He also said the investigation into which forces in SA were supporting the MNR promised in November was proceeding and that the Mozambican authorities had been asked to assist. Asked to comment on reports that 16 members of the SADF had "deserted" to work full time for the MNR, Liebenberg said, "I do not know of one soldier who has defected". He appeared unaware of Portuguese press reports which had tried to absolve the SADF of responsibility for the 1988 sabotage of

Cahora Bassa pylons by claiming that this was the work of SA deserters.

Marcelino dos Santos accused the SADF on January 18 of responsibility for sabotaging Cahora Bassa powerlines. He said that more than 600 pylons had been knocked down in about 2 months. He said the bandits did not have the technical capacity to carry out such vast destruction in so short a time. Marcelino dos Santos said apartheid and fascism only seek negotiations when they have been defeated on the battlefield. Electricidade de Mocambique (EDM) say that a total of 1 415 pylons had been sabotaged by 31/11/1988. Only 11 pylons had been sabotaged in the period prior to the first Cahora Bassa agreement in May 1985. There were 2 major waves of sabotage since – one in 1984/5; the other in 1988. The 1984 agreement was only to come into effect once there was one hour of uninterrupted supply on both lines. That never happened. There were a total of 15 days supply in 1985 on one line. 513 pylons were sabotaged in 1985, and no more until the end of 1987. An aerial survey in December 1988 showed 671 pylons had been destroyed north of the Save River. A later survey showed 200 more were down in the south of the Save. Thus in 1988, saboteurs struck down 891 pylons – some less than 50 km from the SA border. The 1988 sabotage substantially increases the costs of repairing the powerlines. On the basis of figures supplied by EDM, AIM calculates that the cost is likely to rise from \$30 million to \$76 million. The SA contribution, originally at R35 million is likely to triple. Finance from Italy is likely to have to be twice the \$16 million earlier agreed.

Editorial says: "What the Skukuza affair, and the most recent destruction of the electricity pylons running from Mozambique to South Africa . . . show is that South Africa is not acting firmly upon President Botha's promise to President Chissano in Songo. The testimony of Mapulanguene residents cannot be dismissed as anti-South African propaganda. Too many Mozambicans, on too many occasions, have witnessed movements of MNR terrorists to and from South African territory along the common border. The refugees' experience and evidence from recent sabotage of the

pylons have confirmed the widespread suspicion that parts of the South African military who have been used in the destabilisation of Mozambique are still active, and that those responsible are as deaf as ever to South African government pronouncements of goodwill towards its neighbours. This is the least that can be said about the situation. Of course, given the persistent violations of the Nkomati Agreement, it is legitimate to argue that it is not a case of a group of officers clandestinely sabotaging the government's foreign policy, but that the government itself has not shelved its policy of destabilisation towards Mozambique . . . With each passing month South Africa risks becoming engulfed in the very chaos it has nourished for so long . . . You cannot set fire to your neighbour's house and then assume the flames will blow the other way. Accordingly, South Africa should be the first to move quickly against this monster. This is the minimum Africa expects of a government whose members claim they are Africans. South Africa must put an end to this madness now, for the good of southern Africa and for the good of a post-apartheid South Africa itself."

Spokesmen for the Mozambican post office have said that mail sent to Mozambique from abroad via SA are systematically opened in SA and their contents frequently stolen. In 1988, 168 sacks were violated. Twenty-two contained mail originating in SA; the rest was from third countries travelling via SA. The 97 sacks of US mail received by Mozambique in 1988 were all violated. About 100 "verification bulletins" (giving details of violations) were sent to the SA postal authorities but no reply was received. In some cases seals appear to be intact, but packages inside have been tampered with. Postal officials believe SA intelligence services might be involved. Those responsible certainly have access to specialised postal materials and are thus unlikely to be ordinary thieves.

Noticias 7/3/1989

Diogo Domingos, an amnestied ex-bandit who served as an instructor in heavy arms and chief of personnel at the bandits' "base for general officers" at Chibabava in Sofala province, confirmed that support from SA for the armed bandits was continuing. The bandits continued to be supplied with arms and ammunition from SA and black and white SADF soldiers were infiltrated into the country to assist the bandits. Domingos, who was with the bandits for 11 years, also said that ivory, precious stones and other resources were taken by the bandits to SA and Malawi. "I am certain that the ivory is taken to that country with the knowledge of the Malawian government because police on the border assist the armed bandits to enter their country," he said. He had knowledge of this because he had once been stationed at the Borongo base - now destroyed by the FPLM. Malawi also helped bandits to flee from Mozambican security force action, he said. Domingos had trained for 14 months in Rhodesia in 1978. He had the rank in the bandit forces of captain.

Noticias 8/3/1989

A document produced by UNICEF and the Mozambican government says that at least 600 000 Mozambicans have died as a direct or indirect consequence of destabilisation carried out by South Africa's armed bandits. The two parties have just concluded a meeting to analyse the position of children and cooperation over the five-year period 1990/5. The document said that in addition to the victims of war, 100 000 people died between 1982 and 1984 as a result of drought. The war itself had led to the deaths of 494 000 children. UNICEF estimated in 1984 that 200 out of every 1 000 children died during the first year of their lives. A later study indicates that the rate has risen to between 325 and 375 per 1 000. Only 30% of the population currently has access to health services. Government plans to expand the service have been frustrated by bandit action. Between 1982 and 1987, 822 health posts were destroyed or rendered inoperative. Only 567 of these were able to be recuperated. The coverage by health workers also declined from 25 400 per health worker in 1982 to 37 000 in 1987. Four million children and women are in a vulnerable position as a result of the war. By the end of 1987:

- 2 629 primary schools had been closed;
- between 440 740 and 500 000 pupils were deprived of the chance of studying;

- 22 secondary schools were closed;
- 204 secondary school teachers were affected;
- 36 training colleges were closed affecting 5 000 students;
- 1 technical school was closed.

Demographic projections indicate that of the displaced persons in neighbouring countries, 3 302 400 will reach school age by 1995.

Southscan 8/3/1989

A director of an SA firm being investigated in a corruption inquiry said he had gathered intelligence for the National Intelligence Service (NIS). Lawrie Painting of Jalc holdings said that he, Athos Poulos and managing director, Chris van Rensburg, had worked for NIS in Mozambique, Lesotho, Botswana, Mauritius and the Transkei, Ciskei and Bophutatswana bantustans as they saw it to foster understanding. Painting said they had spoken to people whom politicians and diplomats could not reach. The firm is being investigated by the Harms Commission in connection with dubious deals in the bantustans.

Noticias 11/3/1989

Alison Rosenberg, Assistant Deputy Secretary of State for Africa, said that armed bandits operating in Mozambique are continuing to receive support from SA. She said, however, that the source and amount of funding made available to the bandits was unknown. Among the supporters of the armed bandits were Portuguese resident in SA since 1975. Speaking to the Congressional sub-committee on Foreign Affairs. Alison Rosenberg said that the US had done its best to publicise its point of view on Mozambique and had indicated its concern to SA.

Noticias 14/3/1989

US Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs, Charles Freeman, speaking to the *Jornal do Brasil*, reaffirmed his government's repudiation of the armed bandits operating in Mozambique, comparing them to the "Khmer Rouge". "They have already killed more than 100 000 Mozambican civilians in cold blood". Freeman was returning to the USA after visiting Angola, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, South Africa and Cape Verde. He said that the main objective of his visit had been to study the terrain to investigate

whether there was a base for an agreement between Mozambique and SA which could lead to peace and which could be facilitated by the USA. He said, "The South Africans arm, train and supply espionage equipment to Renamo," but have arrived at the conclusion that "it is in their interest to end the guerrilla war". He also said that Washington approves of the economic policy of the Mozambican government - "The Mozambican economic reform is the most radical underway in the whole world". He said that the poor state of the economy was not the fault of the government but of the war. Referring to reports that businessmen based in Brazil had supported armed bandits, Freeman said that countries in which financiers of Renamo lived had a moral obligation to use political or legal means to persuade these people to end this support.

Electricity supplies to Maputo have been affected by the sabotage of powerlines 30 km from Ressano Garcia at 18.30 hours on Sunday March 12.

Noticias 16/3/1989

Three people were killed and a bakery seriously damaged when a group of several dozen bandits launched an attack on the evening of March 14 in the vicinity of Matola-Rio.

Energy cuts resulting from the sabotage of powerlines on March 12 have principally affected the health, education and bank sectors. However, all sectors with the exception of productive units with their own generators are being affected to some degree.

Noticias 18/3/1989

A report written by William Minter for the Ford Foundation and ASDI, based on interviews with 32 former bandits, concludes that the armed bandits depend on violence against the local population to recruit, exercise control and obtain food supplies. He concludes that most bandits are recruited by force and kept in the bandit ranks by threat of execution. Of the 32 interviewed by Minter, only 3 could be said to have joined the bandits for

ideological reasons. Although none received military training in SA, all said they knew of other bandits who had been trained in SA. An Angolan mercenary said that the first big group to have been trained in SA was a 230-strong squad which had been chosen in 1982. This man had himself been recruited by the SADF in Namibia and became part of No. 5 Recce. He was part of a special unit sent to do combat with the ANC.

Noticias 22/3/1989

The acting commander of Zimbabwe's sixth brigade said in Chimoiio on March 20 that joint action by Zimbabwean and Mozambican forces has effectively paralysed bandit action in the Beira Corridor. He said that the joint forces had taken various bandit camps and that the origin of the weaponry captured from the bandits led to the conclusion that SA was continuing to arm them.

Noticias 23/3/1989

Three people were killed and an unknown number kidnapped when a group of bandits attacked the villa of Magude, 150 km from Maputo City, on March 17. This was the second time Magude had been attacked in less than a month. The bandits were forced to withdraw after the arrival of the Nhangá battalion, a special unit trained in Zimbabwe. About 400 bandits are estimated to have participated in the attack.

Fifteen civilians were wounded during an attack on the residential zone of the Maragra sugar plantation in Maputo province on March 19. Two bandits were killed. On February 3, 27 people were killed and 40 kidnapped during an attack on Maragra.

Noticias 28/3/1989

Article by Maria de Lourdes Torcato about the Vermaas enquiry and Magnus Malan, says that the name of Christian van Rensberg, of Jalc Holdings, who admitted that he worked for NIS and Military Intelligence in Mozambique, among other regional states, was well known to Mozambican security. In October 1986, Jalc accepted a proposal from

Military Intelligence to collect intelligence in the countries it operated in. A Brigadier M. J. Deyzel of the SADF was involved in this. Deyzel later resigned from the SADF after being found to be involved in accepting holidays, a beach house and other gifts from Jalc.

BBC World Service News 8 p.m. 29/3/1989

Speaking during her visit to the Nyanga military base in Zimbabwe, where British officers are training Mozambican troops, Margaret Thatcher described Renamo as a "terrorist organisation". She said that no country could develop itself while it was a victim of terrorism, especially when it was of the particularly brutal kind practised in Mozambique.

Noticias 31/3/1989

President Chissano says that the position taken by the British government against terrorism in Mozambique shows an understanding of the nature of armed banditry. He said Margaret Thatcher had reaffirmed her willingness to increase support for Mozambique in its struggle against terrorism and indicated that it was absolutely vital that Mozambique defeat Renamo for its future development. He said that the British position was not new. It had been agreed at the meeting in Nyanga to double the number of Mozambicans being trained by Britain. Instead of training one company at a time, the British instructors would now train two. Britain had also agreed to channel more support to the Limpopo corridor. Britain also announced it would provide £10 million for balance of payments support and £3 million to support programmes to reintegrate displaced persons. In addition Britain would announce that it would supply 15 000 tonnes of cereals at the emergence donors' conference in New York.

Two Italian missionaries were killed by armed bandits at their residences in Inhassunge in Zambezia province on Easter Sunday (26th March) Two other Italian missionaries have disappeared. ●