

Freed MNR bandit victim relives life of crime

H VILANKULO 27/11
(Mozambique). —
BANDITS of the South
African-backed MNR
continued to receive sup-
plies from outside Mo-
zambique until at least
the end of 1988, accord-
ing to testimony given to
the Mozambican news
agency by a former
bandit.

Armando Zacarias (13),

interviewed in the south-
ern province of Inha-
mbane last Wednesday,
said that he had lived for
two years with the ban-
dits. He is one of many
children in southern Mo-
zambique forcibly re-
cruited to the bandit
ranks, and obliged to live
a life of crime.

He said that towards
the end of 1988, un-

identified aircraft were
seen unloading military
supplies at an MNR "cen-
tral base" at Matsulin-
sale, on the coast of Vi-
lankulo district in
northern Inhambane.

Zacarias could not re-
member the exact date of
this incident, but be-
lieved it was in "late No-
vember 1988".

"The planes unloaded

the material at dead of
night," he said. But Za-
carias and other child
bandits were not allowed
to come close to where
the unloading was taking
place.

White men occasional-
ly appeared at Matsulin-
sale base at night. "I
saw a white man who was
not in uniform, but was
carrying two pistols," said

Zacarias. "He wore marks
of a rank on his
shoulders."

Zacarias said there was
serious discontent in the
bandit camps, but that
many bandits had not ac-
cepted the government's
offer of amnesty because
the MNR bandit chiefs
had told them that if they
surrendered they would
be killed. — Ziana-AIM.