

UK to probe 'Renamo' chemical strike in Moz

Own Correspondent

WASHINGTON. — The United States and Britain are studying the possibility that pro-Renamo forces operating inside South Africa may have dropped chemical warfare agents on Mozambican troops earlier this month.

The British government has sent investigators to look into a January 16 incident at Macuene, 10km from the boundary of the Kruger National Park.

According to diplomatic sources, 20 soldiers died and many more had to be hospitalised after a light aircraft flew over them in the direction of the border.

Survivors reported suffering severe nausea, chest pains and internal bleeding, the sources said.

South African involvement was "one of the angles that is being studied", a US official said, but he added that the use of chemical agents had yet to be confirmed.

The Mozambican government has so far avoided pointing a finger at South Africa and has blamed the incident solely on Renamo.

High level delegations of the Mozambican-South African joint security commission met to discuss the matter last Tuesday.

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