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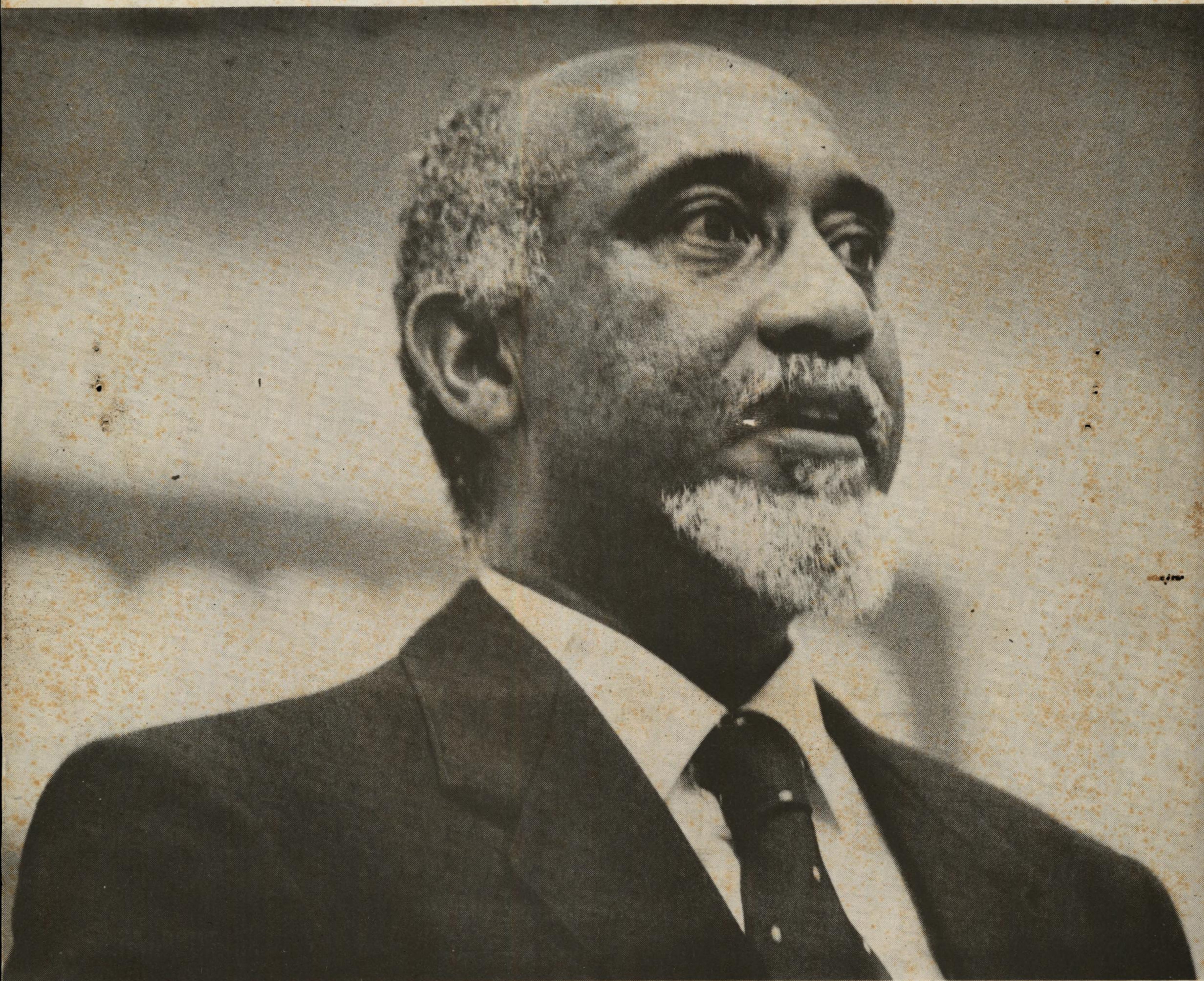
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MOZAMBIQUE NEWS



PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF MOZAMBIQUE

MOZAMBIQUE NEWS No. 127

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Cover: Marcelino dos Santos, who was elected Speaker of the People's Assembly in January. Photo: AIM/Lazaro Mueche.

Supplement: Extracts from Prime Minister Mario Machungo's presentation of the government's economic recovery programme to the People's Assembly.

**THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION OF INQUIRY
PRESENTS A FACTUAL REPORT OF THE LAST FLIGHT
OF PRESIDENT SAMORA MACHEL'S AIRCRAFT**

On 16 January, the three sides in the international commission of inquiry into the causes of the plane crash that killed President Samora Machel and 34 others last October signed a factual report on the circumstances of the disaster.

They also signed a transcript of the cockpit voice recorder (CVR) - the record of the conversations amongst members of the Tupolev-134's crew. This had been translated from the Russian original into English.

The international commission consisted of experts from Mozambique, as the owner of the plane, the Soviet Union, as its manufacturer, and South Africa as the site of the crash. It had listened to and transcribed the CVR in Zurich, Switzerland, and then had travelled to Moscow to decode the digital flight data recorder (commonly referred to as the plane's "black box"). This part of the investigation had been delayed for the best part of a month by the South African government's refusal to hand over the flight recorders.

The Soviet delegation appended a reservation to the factual report, stating that, in terms of the Chicago Convention of 1944, which lays down procedures for the investigation of air disasters, the three sides should also work towards a jointly agreed analysis of precisely what caused the crash. The report gives no analysis at all.

The South Africans organised a hearing of their own into the crash, under the chairmanship of Judge Cecil Margo, at the Rand Supreme court in Johannesburg from 20 to 28 January. Mozambique did not send a representative to this hearing, but demanded that the international commission continue its work.

On the day the Margo hearing started, the Frelimo Party Political Bureau issued a communique which said: "In the interests of establishing the truth and nothing but the truth the Political Bureau has instructed the national commission of inquiry to propose to the South African side that the international commission continue its work until the investigation of the facts is completed".

For in the final phase of transcribing the CVR, one key fact became evident - namely that the Tupolev made its fatal turn towards the South African border because the VOR (Very high frequency omnidirectional radio) signal it was following was not the VOR from Maputo airport.

According to the transcript, at 21.11 and 28 seconds the captain remarked "making some turns. Couldn't it be straight?"

The navigator replied "VOR indicates that way," signifying that he believed the plane was following the VOR signal transmitted from Maputo airport.

In fact, the plane had just made a fatal turn of 37 degrees to the south-west. The turn began over the zone between Magude, a town about 100 kilometres north-west of Maputo, and the South African border. It meant that the plane was now flying away from Maputo, and not towards the city as the crew thought.

Until Magude, the plane was flying with a deviation of only four to six kilometres from its established flight path. This is perfectly normal and means that in navigational terms, the plane was on course.

The head of Mozambique's national commission of inquiry, Transport Minister and Political Bureau member Lt-Gen Armando Guebuza, told AIM on 21 January that it was crucial to discover whether the VOR which misled the plane was a legitimate signal or a decoy.

"The factual report already contains the information that President Samora Machel's plane was following signals from a VOR which was not that of Maputo," he said. "It was this VOR that was the cause of the plane's fatal turn away

from its normal route. It is therefore important to find out what VOR this was, where it was located, and whether it was genuine or a decoy".

This meant that "the investigation of the facts carried out by the international commission is by no means concluded".

The South Africans tried hard at the Margo hearing to argue that the plane had locked on the VOR at Matsapa airport, near Manzini in Swaziland and the only legitimate VOR which could conceivably have been mistaken for Maputo. But the Matsapa and Maputo VORs operate on quite distinct frequencies, and one of the VOR dials among the instruments of the wrecked plane showed, according to the South African Bureau of Standards, cited in the factual report, the correct frequency for Maputo - namely 112.7 Mhz. The crew had also flown in and out of Maputo dozens of times, making over 70 per cent of their landings by night. They were thus well-acquainted with the frequency of the Maputo VOR, and very unlikely to switch to another VOR by mistake.

Certain technical details also rule out Matsapa. A projection of the plane's flight path into Swazi airspace passes 35 kilometres to the east of Matsapa. When a plane follows a VOR signal, it should eventually pass directly above the VOR.

The South African investigators stressed radial 045 of the Matsapa VOR. VORs transmit through 360 degrees, and each radial has a coded identification. The 045 radial is one of the approach paths to Matsapa airport. But this radial would have cut into the aircraft's original flight path several kilometres to the north-west of where the turn actually occurred. So the Tupolev cannot have turned in accordance with the dictates of that radial of the Matsapa VOR.

All the evidence in fact points away from Matsapa and towards the only other hypothesis - that the plane was lured from its route by a powerful decoy VOR, transmitting on the same frequency as the Maputo VOR.

A computerised plotting of the Tupolev's flight path, which Mozambique delivered to both the Soviet and the South African sides in the investigation, also indicates precisely the possibility of a decoy VOR.

The factual report also showed clearly that South African Foreign Minister Roelof Botha had given false information about the crash. He had stated that the Tupolev was obsolete and had not been fitted with a ground proximity warning system (gpws). Not only did the plane possess such a system, but the alarm could be clearly heard on the cockpit tape.

As for Botha's suggestion that the crew had been drinking, the report showed only that there were minute quantities of alcohol in the blood of the navigator and radio operator. Such quantities are produced naturally in decomposition.

Asked at the Johannesburg hearing about his false statements to the press, Botha claimed he had been trying to counter accusations against South Africa. Lawyer Cedric Puckrin asked Botha if, when he stated on 1 November that there was alcohol in the blood of some of the dead Soviet crew, he had intended to suggest that the men had been drinking on duty.

The minister replied "No, I didn't seek that inference," although the international media had in general taken Botha's original statement as an accusation that the crew were drunk. Judge Margo intervened to stop any further cross-examination.

Botha's behaviour has fuelled belief that South Africa was involved in the death of President Samora, though no formal accusation has yet been made.

Botha's false statements cast doubts on everything else the South Africans had said about the crash, argued the Maputo daily Noticias in a front page editorial on 27 January.

"If the Pretoria regime is really innocent of the plane crash, what need did it have to launch a smoke screen of rumours and lies internationally?" asked the paper. "It seems obvious that if it were innocent, Pretoria would be the first to desire that the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth should be rapidly uncovered".

"We demand to know who was responsible for the death of our President", concluded the editorial. "Rumours, lies, falsehoods and smoke screens in no way help to lift the weighty suspicions in the heart of every Mozambican - a suspicion shared by millions of honest people in Africa and throughout the world."

* * * * *

CENTRAL COMMITTEE DECISIONS ANNOUNCED

The Frelimo Party Central Committee met in Maputo from 6 to 10 January in its sixth ordinary session. It last met in November to elect a new president, following the death of Samora Machel.

The Central Committee elected three new members to its secretariat and dropped two. Minister of Construction and Water Julio Carrilho was elected Secretary for Administration and Manpower. Health Minister Pascoal Mocumbi became Secretary for Foreign Relations, and was later appointed Foreign Minister in the government of President Chissano. Eduardo Arao, governor of Tete province, was elected Secretary for Organisation.

Jose Oscar Monteiro, Minister in the Presidency for State Administration and a member of the Party's Political Bureau, and Armando Panguene, Deputy Defence Minister and Political Commissar of the Armed Forces, have left the Central Committee Secretariat.

The Secretariat now has seven members. The other four members are Joaquim Chissano, President of the Party, Jorge Rebelo, Secretary for Ideological Work, Mario Machungo, Secretary for Economic Policy, and Jose Luis Cabaco, Deputy Secretary for Foreign Relations.

During the meeting, the Central Committee was informed by the Political Bureau of the Party that Sergio Vieira, a member of the Central Committee and until then Security Minister, had been appointed director of the Party School.

The Central Committee studied the programme for economic recovery and the state budget and plan for 1987, which were then presented to the People's Assembly.

The final resolution from the meeting called on Party and state bodies to implement "rigorous austerity campaigns". It said these bodies should deepen their awareness of the causes that led to the deterioration of the economic and financial situation "so as to prevent the persistence of these causes".

The resolution noted that the main reason for the economic crisis "lies in foreign aggression and the concerted acts of destabilisation promoted by the enemy, particularly by the apartheid regime".

The Portuguese colonial legacy, natural disasters and "unjust international economic relations" were also important factors contributing to the country's economic difficulties.

Economic recovery, the Central Committee noted, would require increases in agricultural production, with priority being given to encouraging peasant farmers to produce a surplus to market. It told the government that inputs such as seeds and fertiliser and consumer goods to support marketing campaigns had to be distributed in time.

"Improvements in the social area must result from improvements in production," the document said. State bodies should "seek solutions that use internal resources and capacities to the maximum and constantly raise the quality of services offered. This is the most efficient way of minimising the sacrifices now required from all the people in this overall action to halt the process of economic decline."

Economic recovery, the resolution said, "is closely linked to strengthening our defence capacity and increasing the efficiency of the armed forces to re-establish the tranquillity needed for productive work".

The Central Committee decided to postpone the Party's 5th Congress for a year. Under the Party's statutes, congresses are held every five years, and

the next one was due in 1988. However, article 16 of the statutes gives the Central Committee power to postpone congresses.

The resolution said that "considering the need to concentrate efforts on the defence of the country and the implementation of measures for economic recovery," the Congress will be held in 1989. The Secretariat was mandated to begin the process of organising the Congress.

The commission responsible for amending the Constitution made a report to the Central Committee, which praised its work so far. This work "clarifies the leading role of the Frelimo Party, strengthens the democratic and popular nature of our state and enshrines in the Constitution the political, military, economic, social and administrative transformations that have taken place in our country".

The commission is to present a fully amended text of the Constitution to the next Central Committee meeting. Then the draft Constitution will be the subject of nation-wide discussion.

The national commission of inquiry into last October's plane crash in South Africa which killed President Samora Machel and 34 others also reported to the Central Committee. It approved the work of the commission and mandated it to continue.

1987 marks the 25th anniversary of the founding of the Mozambique Liberation Front and the 10th anniversary of its transformation into the Frelimo Party, a Marxist-Leninist vanguard party.

The Central Committee called on the people "to celebrate these anniversaries with joy, solemnity and austerity".

"These anniversaries can in no way prejudice the priority tasks of the nation," the Central Committee said. "On the contrary, they should constitute a moment of mobilisation and dynamism in carrying out our priorities."

* * * * *

THE NEWLY ELECTED PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY MEETS IN ITS FIRST SESSION

The People's Assembly, elected in December, met in its first session in Maputo from 13 to 19 January. The main item on the agenda for the deputies was a debate on a programme of economic rehabilitation presented by Prime Minister Mario Machungo.

The opening address of the Assembly was given by President Joaquim Chissano, who accused the South African regime of seeking "not only to hinder our development, but to instal a submissive regime in Mozambique and to create more bantustans in the region". He said that in the face of this "the states of the region have the right to individual and collective defence," adding that "they have the right to free and independent economic development".

The elimination of banditry in Mozambique was "the principal task imposed upon us," Mr Chissano continued, recalling that the country's economic crisis, including the fall in agricultural production, was largely caused by South African aggression through the armed bandits. Economic recovery was another major task, which would have to go hand in hand with fighting the war, he said.

"History shows that when we are organised, we are able to overcome all obstacles," Mr Chissano said.

The President praised the solidarity of the other Frontline States with Mozambique. "Despite their economic difficulties, the entire Frontline has decided to give priority to the defence of Mozambique," he said.

"The best way to thank them for this is for us to behave selflessly and to ensure the defeat of the bandit gangs," he added.

The President's opening address was followed by a report on last year's general elections, presented by the rapporteur of the National Elections Commission, Rui Baltazar, who is rector of Maputo's Eduardo Mondlane university.

During the elections, South African sponsored terrorists tried to disrupt the voting. The report noted that some candidates had been murdered and that bandits had attacked election brigades.

The report stated that 569 locality assemblies were elected, 330 administrative post assemblies, 109 district assemblies, 22 city assemblies and 11 provincial assemblies, in addition to the supreme legislative body, the People's Assembly.

The South African terror campaign made it impossible to hold elections in 20 districts and 64 administrative posts. Some elections were not held, not only because of banditry but also because of population movements resulting from the war situation and drought, which have left some areas virtually depopulated. New dates for voting will be announced "as soon as the situation allows".

In the locality and administrative post assemblies, a total of 26,181 deputies and 3,600 supplementary deputies were elected. In the districts, there are 5,780 deputies and 1,030 supplementary deputies. For the cities the figures are 1,145 and 167, and in the provincial assemblies 1,055 and 110.

In the districts, 24 per cent of the deputies are women, in the cities 26.5 per cent, and in the provinces 24.8 per cent.

The People's Assembly consists of 249 deputies, 39 (15.8 per cent) of whom are women. 21.7 per cent of the members of the People's Assembly are workers, 17.7 per cent are peasants, 16.9 per cent are from the defence and security forces, 28.1 per cent work in the state apparatus, and 15.6 per cent fall into other categories.

Despite all the difficulties, the report said that the elections were "a high point in the affirmation of democracy and hope and in the affirmation of the will and determination of the people to preserve their freedom, sovereignty and independence".

The People's Assembly deputies unanimously elected Marcelino dos Santos, member of the Frelimo Party Political Bureau, to the position of Speaker. During the first legislature, from 1977 to last year, sessions of the Assembly were chaired by the President of the Republic. However, a constitutional amendment approved last year created the separate post of Speaker of the People's Assembly.

The Assembly accepted a proposal from the Constitutional Revision Commission to extend its mandate by one year. The 30 member Commission is chaired by Minister for State Administration Oscar Monteiro. It will report to the next session of the People's Assembly, and the proposed constitutional amendments will then be the subject of debate throughout the country.

Presenting a programme for economic recovery, Prime Minister Maírio Machungo noted that its central aim was to reactivate production, particularly in agriculture, and to gradually reduce financial imbalances.

The Prime Minister pointed out that the economy had grown steadily from 1977 to 1981. It went into steep decline from 1982, mainly because of South Africa's destabilisation. The economy declined at the rate of 11.5 per cent each year between 1982 and 1985.

It was the rural population who had borne the brunt of the war, Mr Machungo said. In the countryside, the bandits had destroyed more than 500 health units, deprived 300,000 children of education and disrupted supplies of consumer goods.

Reviewing the economic situation in 1986, Mr Machungo noted some growth over the very low 1985 levels. Industrial production of goods contemplated in the state plan increased by seven per cent, while goods traffic on the railways increased by eight per cent. International traffic on the railways increased by 12 per cent. Supplies to the people were up by 30 per cent. But marketed agricultural production dropped by 15 per cent.

"Economic recovery must begin in the countryside," Mr Machungo said, "because it is only in the countryside that we can guarantee increased production of raw materials for our industries and for export, as well as marketing of food surpluses for the urban population."

The key priority in the recovery programme is therefore is giving incentives to peasant family production and ensuring that peasant surpluses are efficiently marketed. The priority crops are the basic cereals (rice and maize), cotton, copra and cashew nuts.

Mr Machungo said the government believed it possible to raise the production of cashew nuts to 90,000 tonnes by 1990. By the same year, cotton production should have reached 40,000 tonnes and marketed maize production 70,000 tonnes.

The governor of the Bank of Mozambique, Eneias Comiche, informed the Assembly about negotiations with the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF). He said a US\$45 million loan from the World Bank was in the final stages of being used, while a loan was being negotiated with the IMF for a ten-year period at 0.5 per cent interest.

Closing the Assembly, Marcelino dos Santos reminded the deputies that the programme for economic recovery and the fight against armed banditry "are inseparable".

"The war affects the whole country," he said. "Every Mozambican directly or indirectly feels the effects of this criminal war." It was felt most directly in the death and destruction wreaked by the bandits. But Mr dos Santos pointed out that the war also resulted in the shortage of goods in the shops, the inability to move coal from Tete province to the ports and in difficulties in transporting food.

To overcome these problems "we must wage total war against the bandits," he said, adding that the war was "the greatest disaster we have to face".

Mr dos Santos said that the economic recovery programme approved by the Assembly should reverse the tendency to decline in the years since 1982. It would "halt the deterioration and lead to growth, so that we do not pass on to future generations the burden of the current economic situation and of our foreign debt".

The measures proposed, affecting wages, prices, taxes and credit "will benefit the majority of the people, and particularly the peasantry," Mr dos Santos said.

(Mr Machungo's presentation of the economic recovery programme is published as a supplement to this issue of Mozambique News.)

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THE ECONOMIC RECOVERY PROGRAMME

By the end of January, some of the measures in the economic recovery programme had been published. On 30 January, Labour Minister Aguiar Mazula announced across the board wage rises of 50 per cent in the state and private sectors throughout the country. Mr Mazula outlined the government's new wages policy at a press conference in Maputo.

The new policy also allows for productivity, length of service and other bonuses which, the Minister said, could effectively give some workers rises of 90 to 100 per cent.

Wages in Mozambique had until now been regulated by a 1980 law which strictly controlled wages and allowed for no differentiation on the basis of quality of work by people doing the same job. At the same time, government statistics last year put the consumer price index at 261 against the base level of 100 in 1980.

Now, the Labour Minister said, employers were being urged to rationalise their workforces and to offer financial incentives for improved productivity. He said, however, that the state sector would not simply dismiss underemployed workers, but would organise to transfer them to productive activities.

The wage rises were followed by an announcement the same day of a 420 per cent devaluation of the metical. One US dollar is now equivalent to 200

meticaïs at the bank buying rate and 204 meticaïs at the bank selling rate. These rates had previously been 37 meticaïs and 40 meticaïs respectively.

The next day, an eight-page supplement to the Maputo daily Noticias contained the new fiscal law and a series of measures which it enables. The system of direct taxation has been changed to introduce an income tax. This has been introduced to replace part of the National Reconstruction Tax, which was in effect an income tax. Income under 5,000 meticaïs a month is now free of income tax. Monthly earnings up to 10,000 meticaïs are taxed at the rate of six per cent, and anything over this amount at the rate of 15 per cent.

Employees of the state, the Frelimo Party and the mass democratic organisations are now exempt from income tax.

Payments to company owners, shareholders and board members are to be taxed at the higher rate of 15 per cent.

The National Reconstruction Tax has been reformulated "to represent the minimum contribution required of every citizen to the public purse," according to the fiscal law. This tax is set at 1,500 meticaïs a year for Maputo and Beira cities and for Maputo, Gaza and Inhambane provinces, and at 1,000 meticaïs a year for the rest of the country.

People exempt from National Reconstruction Tax are those unable to work, those in compulsory military service, peasant women, housewives and students.

Production and service cooperatives will for the first time pay tax on income. This tax has not yet been announced, but the fiscal law allows for temporary exemption in the case of unfavourable climatic conditions or other crisis situations.

The taxes on beer and cigarettes have been substantially increased, while fares for road, rail, sea and air transport have gone up sharply. A packet of cigarettes which previously cost 85 meticaïs now carries 168 meticaïs in tax alone. Bus fares on the Maputo public transport system, which have remained at 3.5 meticaïs since 1975, have been raised to 10 meticaïs.

Postal, telephone, telex, electricity and water charges have all risen. A letter to Europe, for example, used to need a 16 metical stamp, but now costs 50 meticaïs to post. The rise in electricity tariffs means that domestic consumers will pay double the previous rate.

Other taxes that have been increased include the tax on commercial transactions, consumer tax and taxes on industrial and commercial profits.

The People's Assembly in its January session passed a law introducing charges in the health service. The aim of the law is to reduce state spending and provide money from outside the state in order to reverse the deterioration in hospital services.

Hospital charges will be paid by those of private means, while employers will pay the charges for their workers and their families. Workers may have to reimburse some of the charges, depending on their wage.

Exempt from charges are children under 18, pensioners, blood donors, former FRELIMO guerrillas, women in childbirth, registered unemployed, domestic workers, those who are unable to pay, as well as state employees and workers whose right to free medical assistance is written into their contract.

The Ministers of Health and Finance will jointly decide on a scale of charges for in-patients and for consultations.

Vaccinations and treatment of such diseases as tuberculosis and leprosy remain free.

The Assembly also approved a law on investment, which is aimed at encouraging Mozambican businessmen to invest either in new projects or in the rehabilitation and expansion of existing companies.

With the new law, the government gives legal guarantees to private investors and provides incentives for investment in priority areas. The top priority in the economic recovery programme is agriculture. The other priorities are light and food industries and transport. Light industries producing consumer goods that could support agricultural marketing are particularly important.

Fiscal and customs incentives will be given to Mozambican investors working within the economic recovery programme. All companies which export

goods which have not been traditionally exported by Mozambique or find new favourable markets for existing export products will be exempt from a number of taxes and customs dues.

Mozambican emigrants who invest money they have earned a broad in Mozambique will be exempted from tax for five years.

Businessmen whose investment leads to exports will be able to keep a percentage of the foreign currency generated so that they can import necessary inputs to continue their activity and "to reward management efficiency".

It was announced to the Assembly by Prime Minister Machungo that house rents would be revised. Following the nationalisation of rented property in 1976, rents were fixed according to the wages of tenants. Rents are now to be established taking the age, quality and location of the property into account.

Mr Machungo said that the new rents would be applied to all new leases from February, however "for workers who already have rent contracts, a special system will be established so that the percentage of the monthly salary spent on rent does not increase substantially".

In early January, the governor of the Bank of Mozambique, Eneias Comiche, announced that savings accounts would benefit from higher interest rates. The interest rate on ordinary savings accounts has gone up from between one and two per cent to three per cent. Fixed term deposits have varying interest rates according to the length of time of the deposit. These rates range from 12 per cent per annum for 90 days deposits to 20 per cent per annum for deposits for two years.

Other measures in the economic recovery programme are expected to be announced in February.

The state budget for 1987, approved by the January session of the People's Assembly, shows a deficit of 30 thousand million meticaïs, projecting state revenue at 55.6 thousand million meticaïs and expenditure at 85.6 thousand million meticaïs.

This is a vast increase over 1986, when state spending was set at 26.7 thousand million meticaïs and revenue at 19.5 thousand million. However, the 1987 budget takes into account the new taxes, wages and prices in the economic recovery programme.

Defence spending, set at 29.6 thousand million meticaïs, accounts for 34.6 per cent of total expenditure. In 1986, defence spending accounted for 41.9 per cent of the budget.

Other items on the expenditure side are wages in the state sector (15.1 thousand million meticaïs - 17.7 per cent), goods and services (11.6 thousand million meticaïs - 13.6 per cent), debt servicing (5.7 thousand million meticaïs - 6.7 per cent), price subsidies (6.8 thousand million meticaïs - 7.9 per cent) and financing the deficits of state companies (14 thousand million meticaïs - 16.4 per cent). The remainder goes on unspecified other charges.

The central state plan sets a target of a 42 per cent increase in marketed agricultural production. For basic grains the target is 40,000 tonnes of rice and 40,000 tonnes of maize. Prime Minister Machungo described the maize target as "derisory". However, if reached, these figures would mark a significant improvement over 1986, which was the worst year on record for agricultural marketing. Only 61,500 tonnes of maize and rice were marketed last year.

The plan calls for marketing of 45,000 tonnes of cashew nuts, one of the country's main exports. In 1985, 30,000 tonnes of cashew nuts were marketed, but complete figures are not available yet for 1986.

A major expansion in cotton production is hoped for. The plan stipulates a target of 25,000 tonnes to be marketed. Only 5,700 tonnes were marketed in 1985.

In order to encourage marketing of peasant surpluses, the plan has earmarked three thousand million meticaïs to support marketing campaigns. The funded is needed to ensure that consumer goods reach the rural areas, where peasants will have something to buy with earnings from surplus crops.

The plan also sets out a target of 34 per cent increase in industrial production and a 35 per cent increase in the level of supplies to the people.

The target for exports is an increase of at least 10.7 per cent.

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NEW GOVERNMENT APPOINTMENTS

Former Health Minister Pascoal Mocumbi became Foreign Minister and Political Bureau member Armando Guebuza was named Transport and Communications Minister in a series of government appointments announced on 11 January by a spokesman for the President's Office.

President Joaquim Chissano had been Foreign Minister from independence in 1975 until his election as President last November after the death of Samora Machel.

Dr Fernando Vaz was promoted from Deputy Health Minister to Minister. Dr Jose Igrejas Campos, director of the Maputo city health department, has become the new Deputy Health Minister.

The post of Transport and Communications Minister was left vacant by the death of Luis Alcantara Santos, who was travelling with President Samora on the fatal flight of 19 October.

Lt-Gen Guebuza held no government position immediately prior to his appointment. At different times he has been Interior Minister, Minister in the Presidency and Minister Resident in Sofala Province.

President Chissano appointed Political Bureau member Maj-Gen Mariano Matsinhe as Minister of Security. He replaced Col Sergio Vieira, who was nominated by the Party as director of the Party School.

Gen Matsinhe previously held the security portfolio from May 1983 to June 1984. He was then appointed Political Bureau member in charge of Niassa province, the position he had until now.

The President upgraded the State Secretariats of Labour and Culture to ministries, with the former secretaries, Aguiar Mazula and Luis Bernardo Honwana respectively, becoming ministers. Mr Honwana has been relieved of his post as director of the President's Office. No replacement has been announced.

Feliciano Gundana left his job as governor of Zambezia province to become Minister in the Presidency. The new governor of Zambezia is Antonio Materrula, who had been Secretary of State for Tourism. A new tourism secretary has not been appointed.

Eduardo Arao, elected by the Frelimo Party Central Committee to its Secretariat as Secretary for Administration, has left Tete province, where he was governor. The new governor of Tete is Cadmiel Muthemba, while Julio N'tchola is now governor of Niassa. Both men are members of the Frelimo Party Central Committee, but neither has held any senior government position before.

The new appointments were confirmed at a swearing in ceremony in the capital on 20 January.

The composition of the government is now as follows:

President of the Republic	Joaquim Alberto Chissano
Council of Ministers	
Prime Minister and Minister of Planning	Mario da Graca Machungo
Defence	Alberto Joaquim Chipande
Armed Forces Chief of Staff	Sebastiao Marcos Mabote
Foreign Affairs	Pascoal Manuel Mocumbi
Cooperation	Jacinto Soares Veloso
Transport and Communications	Armando Emilio Guebuza
Education	Graca Machel
Security	Mariano Matsinhe
Interior	Manuel Antonio
In the Presidency for State Administration	Jose Oscar Monteiro
In the Presidency	Feliciano Gundana
Finance	Abdul Magid Osman
Health	Fernando Vaz
Information	Teodato Hunguana

Construction and Water
Trade
Agriculture
Industry and Energy
Mineral Resources
Justice
Labour
Culture

Julio Zamith Carrilho
Manuel Jorge Aranda da Silva
Joao Ferreira
Antonio Branco
John Kachamila
Ossumane Ali Dauto
Aguiar Real Mazula
Luis Bernardo Honwana

Deputy Ministers

Defence

Security
Health
Interior
Agriculture
Transport and Communications

Trade

Foreign Affairs
Education

Sebastiao Marcos Mabote
Armando Panguene
Salesio Teodoro Nalyambipano
Jose Igrejas Campos
Hipolito Patricio
Alexandre Jose Zandamela
Rui Lousa
Isaias Muhate (Shipping)
Daniel Gabriel
Prakash Ratilal
Daniel Mbanze
Carlos Beirao
Avelino Paulo Muianga

Secretaries of State

Defence (Logistics)
(Telecommunications)
(Mobilisation)
(Veterans)

Fisheries
Agricultural Water Resources
Civil Aviation
Light and Food Industries
Cotton
Cashew
Technical and Vocational Education

Tomas Salomao
Joaquim Joao Munhepe
Guideon Ndobe
Osvaldo Tazama
Lazaro Mathe
Joaquim Tenreiro de Almeida
Rui Fernando Gonzalez
Angelo Azarias Chichava
Francisco Caravela
Castigo Chivite
Alfredo Gamito
Maria dos Anjos Rosario

Provincial Governors

Cabo Delgado
Niassa
Tete
Nampula
Zambezia
Manica
Sofala
Inhambane
Gaza
Maputo
Maputo City (Chairman)

Joao Baptista Cosme
Julio Almoco N'tchola
Cadmiel Feliane Muthemba
Gaspar Dzimba
Antonio Materrula
Rafael Magune
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Jose Pascoal Zandamela
Francisco Pateguana
Jose Moiane
Alberto Massavanhane

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THE MILITARY SITUATION IN ZAMBEZIA

After two months of intense activity by the Mozambican armed forces, the military situation in the central province of Zambezia is showing signs of improvement. Convoys of trucks are now able to travel not only from Quelimane, the provincial capital, to Mocuba in the centre of the province, but now go beyond Mocuba, carrying food and medicines to the districts of Ile, Namarroi and Lugela in the north of the province.

An AIM reporter who was in Zambezia in October said that at that time there was no traffic between these districts and the rest of the province. Local people had to travel in groups under cover of darkness, sleeping by day, and walk distances of 100 kilometres or more to collect supplies.

Over the last two months, the Mozambican army has overrun several important camps of the South African backed bandits in various parts of Zambezia.

In Mocuba district, the army captured bases at Namanjavirra, Magiwe, Munhiba and Nampevo, killing 130 bandits. Mozambican military sources said that the Namanjavirra and Nampevo camps were strategic for the bandits. They launched raids on convoys between Quelimane and Mocuba from the Namanjavirra camp, and the Nampevo camp was used for ambushes against the Mocuba-Ile road.

The last attacks against vehicles on these stretches of road were in October. Lorries were burnt and their occupants murdered. Bridges were dynamited, and the road surface was wrecked with mine explosion or blocked with tree trunks.

Drivers who make the Quelimane-Mocuba run regularly told AIM that security along the road has improved substantially, reducing the length of time needed for the journey and increasing the regularity of convoys.

Elsewhere in central and northern Zambezia, Mozambican soldiers are fighting dispersed groups of bandits who seem to be based at a large camp at Muakiwa in the north of Mocuba district, and in Morrumbala and Milange districts and the northern part of Namarroi.

Letters arrive in Quelimane every day from "people's correspondents" (local correspondents of Radio Mozambique) telling of the destruction of bandit hideouts and the freeing of peasants from bandit control.

In Gurue district, which has the country's major tea plantations, army units helped by local people are opening roads from Gurue to southern Zambezia and to the north into Nampula province. This should allow tea that has piled up in Zambezia to be taken to the coast.

Since the signing of a security agreement between Mozambique and Malawi in December, there has been little information about the situation along the common border. However, refugees from Alfazema, Alto Benfica and other border areas say that the bandits are still making free use of the Malawian border.

It seems, however, that the South Africans are looking for alternatives to Malawi in order to guarantee supplies to their surrogates. This would explain a recent push by the bandits towards the coast, in order to receive supplies from South Africa by sea. The bandits have tried, so far unsuccessfully, to occupy coastal districts in Zambezia. In mid-January, they tried to seize the small port of Pebane, but were repulsed by the army.

Agricultural production is beginning to revive. In various parts of Zambezia peasants are beginning to return to fields they had previously abandoned because of the terrorist activities of the bandits. Many of their villages, however, have been burnt and have not yet been rebuilt.

Under pressure from the armed forces, the bandits are abandoning many of their camps, according to people who have managed to flee from bandit captivity. Virginia Estevao, who escaped with her two children from a camp in Mopeia district, told AIM that the bandits in that area were making a "precipitate" withdrawal. She said that many peasants who had escaped were hiding in the bush. "They are afraid because the bandits always told them that if they were caught by Frelimo they would be killed," she explained.

Many tens of thousands of people still face severe shortages of food and clothing. The threat of famine still hangs over the province. Many roads remain blocked and land mines continue to claim victims. The bandits, forced on to the defensive, are beginning to take revenge against local people, and there are reports of a considerable increase in indiscriminate killings of defenceless civilians.

Despite the recent improvement, it is still generally felt that the security situation in Zambezia is worse than elsewhere in the country. Districts such as Mopeia, Morrumbala and Milange remain heavily infested with bandits.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Deaths from hunger in Niassa

Children are dying from hunger in the northern province of Niassa, the Maputo daily Noticias reported on 3 January. The crisis in Niassa results from unfavourable climatic conditions early in 1986, when very heavy rains washed out crops in parts of the province, and South African backed banditry, which has disrupted agriculture.

Noticias reported that many peasants had been reduced to a nomadic existence, fleeing the bandits and searching for food. They are living on roots and tubers of dubious nutritional value, wild fruit and leaves.

Access to parts of the province is extremely difficult, not only because of banditry, but also because of poor roads and shortages of vehicles.

Many children have already died from hunger related diseases at Lussanhando, about 15 kilometres from Lichinga, the provincial capital. The secretary of the Lussanhando communal village, Armando Moda, told Noticias that infant deaths had never been so frequent in the past.

Some of the roots now being eaten can be dangerous. If they are not properly cooked, they can cause dizziness, nausea and vomiting.

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New ambassadors present credentials

President Chissano received credentials from new ambassadors from Belgium and Yugoslavia on 5 January at separate ceremonies in Maputo. The new ambassadors are Michael Geuens from Belgium and Andon Mojsov from Yugoslavia.

Speaking to the Belgian ambassador, President Chissano noted that the headquarters of the European Community were in Brussels, and that the Community had a "special responsibility" in the struggle for justice and economic and social progress in southern Africa.

He said Mozambique appreciated the measures already taken by the Community against Pretoria, and its support for the countries of the Southern African Development Coordination Conference (SADCC), but called for further action.

President Chissano told Mr Mojsov that "for us, peace in Mozambique and southern Africa means the end of apartheid and of colonialism, which are the cause of instability in the region".

He praised the role played by Yugoslavia in the Non-Aligned Movement, and said that relations between Mozambique and Yugoslavia "are an example of the sort of relations that should exist between non-aligned countries in the struggle against underdevelopment and for the establishment of a new international economic order".

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Reception for the diplomatic corps

South Africa's bandits operating in Mozambique "are doomed to failure," President Joaquim Chissano said to members of the diplomatic corps at a New Year reception in Maputo on 5 January. Mr Chissano was making an impromptu reply, in English, to a speech given by the dean of the diplomatic corps, Swazi ambassador Christian Masuku.

In his speech, Mr Masuku had evoked the suffering caused by the bandits. At first, he said, he had thought the stories of atrocities were exaggerated, but now he had come to realise that they were true and that "the problem this country faces is one thing only - the bandits".

"Your words have inspired me to say that 1987 is the year of the doom of the bandits," President Chissano said. "This will be realised with the support of the whole international community which has realised, as you say, that there is no exaggeration. The people of southern Africa are suffering, and that suffering must come to an end."

Turning to his prepared speech in Portuguese, Mr Chissano denounced the South African government as being "responsible for regional destabilisation through terrorism, armed banditry, direct aggression and the occupation of territories by force".

South Africa had infiltrated "thousands of bandits and mercenaries" into Mozambique, he said. "This infiltration is now taking on the proportions of a real invasion, causing our country to spend enormous sums on defence."

"We are convinced," he said, "that peace in southern Africa must necessarily involve the elimination of the apartheid system, and the implantation of democracy throughout South Africa and for all South Africans."

He noted that international bodies, including the Commonwealth, the European Community and the United Nations, had taken initiatives to try and resolve the problem of apartheid. All such initiatives had met with "the systematic refusal of the Pretoria regime to follow the path of negotiation and a peaceful resolution of the conflicts which it itself is generating in southern Africa".

President Chissano called on the entire international community "to continue taking strong measures that will contribute to the rapid elimination of apartheid".

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Plane crash survivor dies

One of the survivors of the plane crash which killed President Samora Machel and 33 others on 19 October died in hospital in South Africa on 5 January. Eusebio Guido Martinho, an official in the Foreign Ministry, had been in the Rob Ferreira hospital in Nelspruit since 20 October, suffering from serious multiple injuries.

The nine other survivors of the crash were less seriously injured and have all returned to Mozambique from South Africa.

On 9 January, Party and state leaders and Mr Martinho's colleagues and friends in the Foreign Ministry paid last respects at a ceremony in Maputo. The following day, the coffin of Mr Martinho was flown to Beira, where the funeral took place.

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Bandits attack in Nampula province

South African backed bandits attacked the town of Monapo in Nampula province on 2 January, wrecking industrial installations, an electricity sub-station and the local hospital.

Monapo lies 140 kilometres east of Nampula town, on the line of road and rail that links the provincial capital to the port of Nacala.

In the raid, the bandits killed eight people and kidnapped several others, including a Portuguese citizen and his wife and child. He is one of several Portuguese employed by the Empresa Industrial de Monapo (Monapo Industrial Company), mainly of Portuguese capital, which makes soap and edible oils.

The bandit force split into two groups so as to raid the industrial area and the local administration buildings simultaneously. The two areas are about two kilometres apart.

At the Empresa Industrial de Monapo, they dynamited the factory's electricity generating plant, burnt 12 vehicles and destroyed a wagon containing 30 tonnes of cashew nuts. The group then moved on to a cotton gin, where they burnt several bales of cotton.

The second group blew up the Monapo district administrative offices and the residence of the district administrator, who was away at the time. The bandits also destroyed the Monapo rural hospital and the town's electricity sub-station. Power generated in Nacala is distributed through this sub-station to Nampula town, Mozambique Island and the district of Mossuril. The local police station was also destroyed in the raid.

Eyewitnesses told AIM that the bandits were led by a man who had brought a list of people to be killed or kidnapped.

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Conference of Islamic youth

The holding of the fifth Conference of Southern African Islamic Youth in Maputo should put an end once and for all to the myth propagated outside the country that Mozambique persecutes religion, the secretary general of the Mozambican Islamic Council, Sheik Abubacar Mussa, said in Maputo on 7 January.

Sheik Abubacar was speaking at a press conference in Maputo on the eve of the five-day youth conference, which was attended by around 300 delegates from all the countries of the region. Delegations from Brazil, Cape Verde and several Arab countries also attended.

The conference was opened with a short address from Mozambican Justice Minister Ossumane Ali Dauto, who called on the participants "to consolidate unity in the southern African region". Relations between the various churches in Mozambique and the government are channelled through the Justice Ministry.

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75 years of the ANC celebrated in Maputo

The 75th anniversary of the African National Congress (ANC) of South Africa was celebrated in Maputo on 8 January with cultural activities and speeches. The ANC's chief representative in Maputo, Jacob Zuma, recalled "the deep ties of culture and history which bind the Mozambican and South African peoples".

"Mozambique's independence was a great inspiration" to the people of South Africa, Mr Zuma said, adding that "many young Machel's were born in South Africa in 1975".

in which the ANC leader pledged "to the brother people of Mozambique and our entire region that, at Mbuzini, where the fellow combatant Samora Machel lost his life, we shall erect a monument that will symbolise the common suffering of the people of Southern Africa, a tribute to their heroism and a solemn affirmation that we share a common destiny of liberty, peace and social progress".

Frelimo Party Central Committee member Gideon Ndobe, who is also secretary of the Afro-Asian section of the Mozambican Friendship Association, addressed the rally and pledged Mozambique's continued support for the ANC.

"We strongly condemn the apartheid regime, and its repression of and discrimination against people whose only crime is their desire to be free," Mr Ndobe said.

South Africa's destabilisation of the region, he added, "is an attempt to internationalise the conflict between the regime and the legitimate rights of the majority of the South African people".

ANC members and supporters greeted Mr Ndobe's speech by singing the best known of all Mozambican revolutionary songs Kanimambo Frelimo (Thank you Frelimo). Both Mr Ndobe and Mr Zuma were carried shoulder high round the hall by enthusiastic young ANC supporters.

Mr Zuma took the opportunity to announce that he was leaving Maputo the next day because his organisation had transferred him to headquarters in Lusaka.

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President Chissano meets Robert Mugabe

Military cooperation between Mozambique and Zimbabwe is to increase, it was announced on 15 January at the end of a meeting at Victoria Falls between President Chissano and Prime Minister Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe.

A statement issued at the end of the meeting said that the two leaders discussed the situation in Mozambique. "They reviewed the successes so far scored in the joint military operations in the bandit infested areas of the country and reaffirmed the need to intensify that cooperation and wipe out banditry," the statement said.

For a number of years, Zimbabwean troops have helped to defend the vital Beira Corridor, which links Zimbabwe to the Indian Ocean. They have also carried out joint operations with the Mozambican army against South African backed bandits in the centre of the country.

President Chissano briefed Mr Mugabe "about the progress made by the joint commission on security between Mozambique and Malawi and both expressed the hope that the joint commission would continue to improve conditions of peace and cooperation between the two neighbours," the statement said.

On South Africa, they called on the international community "to intensify its efforts in isolating the racist regime and to bring pressure to bear on it".

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COOPERATION, TRADE & AGREEMENTS

* The assistant general secretary for political affairs of the **ORGANISATION OF AFRICAN UNITY**, B. N. Dede, arrived in Maputo on 19 January for a two-day visit. The purpose of the visit was to sign an agreement with Mozambique on the allocation of US\$one million from the OAU's emergency fund. The aid will be used to buy consumer goods and vehicles for the provinces in the centre and north of the country most affected by banditry. Cooperation Minister Jacinto Veloso signed the agreement on behalf of the government.

million marks (about US\$13.9 million). The agreement was signed by Cooperation Minister Jacinto Veloso and by Federal Germany's ambassador in Maputo, Wilfried Noelle.

15 million marks will be used to import consumer goods, raw materials, medicines and pesticides. Seven million marks will be spent in the energy sector and 1.6 million marks in buying railway equipment. The remainder of the loan will finance a study on integrated rural development in Manica province.

* **NORAD**, the Norwegian development agency, is providing 40 million kroner (about US\$5.7 million) to finance a port training school in Maputo. An agreement on the aid was signed in Maputo on 27 January by Norad representative Arthur Sydnes and by Transport and Communications Minister Armando Guebuza.

When it is completed in two years time, the school will be open to candidates from the other four African countries with Portuguese as their official language.

Photo service: AIM sends out a monthly packet of six to eight photographs on events in general in Mozambique. The photo service is aimed at non-profit making organisations, and is thus offered at the very low fee of US\$100 for one year's subscription. The photos may not be used for commercial purposes.

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