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Oil plant attack admitted by ANC

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LUSAKA : The African National Congress (ANC) claimed responsibility yesterday for Thursday's attacks on South African oil installations and for recent mine explosions in the northern Transvaal.

A statement said the attacks were carried out by units of Umkhonto we Sizwe (Spear of the Nation), the ANC fighting wing. It added : "The units are based and operate inside South Africa and were not infiltrated from Zimbabwe or any other independent African country in southern Africa, as maliciously claimed by the Botha regime."

According to the statement, soon after Thursday's attack on the state-owned oil-from-coal plants at Secunda, three of the ANC guerrillas confronted a government patrol 120 miles away.

The ANC, which is the main guerrilla group fighting regime, said the three members of the fighting wing were not going to nearby Swaziland but were merely withdrawing from the scene to their base within South Africa.

The ANC said its units were also responsible for laying mines in the Soutpansberg area of northern Transvaal because "there is irrefutable evidence that the South African Defence Force has been building up its strength along the border with Zimbabwe."

The ANC declared that the mere presence of large concentrations of troops along the northern border "posed a threat against the independence and territorial integrity of Zimbabwe."—Reuter.