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RAID INTO MOZAMBIQUE

Ronald Golden of Salisbury's daily newspaper, *THE HERALD*, accompanied Zimbabwe Rhodesian Security Forces on a four day raid on a terrorist base in Mozambique ending October 1. He reported as follows: -

"In a highly successful four day raid into Mozambique Zimbabwe Rhodesian Security Forces destroyed the main nerve centre for the whole of the ZANLA terrorist operation in that country. Casualty figures among terrorists are expected to run well into hundreds. The aim of the operation was to destroy Chimoio terrorist base (different from the base with the same name destroyed two years ago by Security Forces), a 64 square kilometer bush complex about 40 kilometers northeast of Umtali and 15 kilometers east of the Zimbabwe Rhodesia border. At a press briefing a spokesman for Combined Operations said that the raid was mounted 'particularly when we knew that Josiah Tongogara had been instructed to push a maximum amount of PF troops into Zimbabwe Rhodesia to disrupt the London talks'. After the operation began Security Forces gained intelligence that Rex Nhongo and most of the ZANLA military hierarchy were in the area, including at least five Russian advisers. The annihilation of a group of about 100 well trained terrorists permanently occupying a series of massive granite outcrops overlooking the ZANLA base was one of the key factors in the capture of the base. These terrorists lived in a series of well built and well fortified bunkers constructed, according to our Security Forces, under Soviet supervision.

"The task of the terrorists was to protect the base from strikes by the Zimbabwe Rhodesian Air Force. The resistance was fair but was no match for the accuracy of the Zimbabwe Rhodesian Air Force. Over 1,000 people were estimated to have been in the camp when the attack began. There was no indication of any significant FRELIMO presence, although early on Sunday morning six tanks, believed to have been manned by FRELIMO, opened fire on Zimbabwe Rhodesian Forces, producing 'reasonable resistance'. Their manning of anti-aircraft guns had been 'quite good, showing that they had been trained'. About a dozen terrorists were captured and large amounts of weapons and ammunition were brought back."