

and hundreds of homes were destroyed. From photographs I saw of the victims of Mapai, which is now completely deserted, it is clear that the Rhodesian mercenaries did not merely shoot the inhabitants; they spent considerable time and effort in mutilating bodies. These atrocities have been repeated in dozens of towns and villages in the provinces of Gaza, Manica, and Tete.

The Smith regime has chosen its targets with pinpoint precision at crucial points of Mozambique's infrastructure. The destruction of the bridge over the Pungue river in Manica province cut the last remaining major highway connection between Maputo and the north. Not only does this prevent the distribution of vital foodstuffs, much of which has to be imported, but it paralyzes the completion of the electrification projects at the Cabora Bassa dam in Tete. The heavy generators can only reach the dam via the highway not cut off at the Pungue river.

In the area of telecommunications, all links between Maputo and the northern provinces, including the key port of Beira, as well as connections to Zambia and Tanzania, were routed through the country's only troposcatter repeater station in the town of Chicualacuala on the Rhodesian border. The station was destroyed last year. Other attacks have laid waste to food warehouses, airfields, water reservoirs, rail lines, and truck depots.

Nor are the Rhodesian attacks limited to the border vicinity. Last January an air raid was launched against the town of Chocue, 300 kilometers inside the border and a mere 150 kilometers north of Maputo. One official

commented that it is impossible to delineate an area of the country that would not be subject to attack. Since Mozambique has no combat aircraft, Maputo itself is a potential target.

The government has officially estimated damage from Rhodesian attacks at a mere \$13 million. But these are only the direct costs of replacing destroyed buildings and equipment. Not calculated are the losses of crops that could not be marketed due to cut rail and road links. The Pungue bridge, for example, is valued at only about \$1 million, but its real value to the economy is almost incalculable, as shown by the loss of the electric potential of the Cabora Bassa. Nor have the losses in terms of displaced population been taken into account. It has been roughly estimated that a quarter of a million people have been directly affected by the attacks, but precisely how many families have been forced to abandon farms and other activities, no one knows. Complete assessments are impossible due to the isolation of various sections of the country. Communications between Maputo and villages in Tete, for example, now takes days.

Despite unrelenting attempts to thwart Mozambique's development the two- to five-year outlook appears promising. Aid from the socialist countries, and even from certain western nations channeled through the United Nations, is looked to to save the economy from disaster in the short run. Mozambicans are very optimistic about a favorable settlement of the Rhodesian question within a year or two, and assuming that they and the Angolans continue to provide leadership to Africa's black "front-line states," such a settlement is likely to lead to regional development accords based on the vast mineral wealth of the area. Under such conditions, the dormant infrastructure of Maputo and Beira will thrive as hubs of southern African trade.

At the same time, projects are already underway for the exploitation of new resources. A West German firm has done feasibility studies of new coal deposits in Niassa. Millions of tons of high-grade coal may eventually be exported from Nacala, presently a small fishing town but also the best natural deep-water port on the African east coast. Cost estimates have already been made on turning Nacala into a major shipping terminal. The coal could eventually go to steel smelters using iron ore from the central and southern regions, as well as from Swaziland and South Africa, with energy provided by the Cabora Bassa dam on the Zambeze river. The government also plans to incorporate 10,000 hectares of arable land per year into the modern agriculture sector through projects such as the planned Limpopo dam, which will supply irrigation for at least two high-yield crops annually in the valley. In the crucial area of scientific and technical training, the expanding student and worker exchange programs with Cuba and other allies will greatly accelerate Mozambique's already intensive training drives.

It was therefore not surprising to find no Maoist writings in Maputo's bookstores. One government official told me that when a Chinese "technical" mission was consulted for advice on how to recover an abandoned factory producing light agricultural machinery two years ago, the Chinese unhesitatingly recommended the plant be torn down. Distribute crude hand tools among

LaRouche: South Africa- Mozambique Tie, Key To Peace

Mozambique's enormous economic potential represents the unique basis for a durable peace effort in southern Africa. U.S. Labor Party chairman Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr. outlined such a peace proposal in a statement released this week:

"The Republic of South Africa is properly perceived as the mediator of high-technology-oriented economic development throughout the region. This requires, of course, that the nation's internal and external policies be brought into agreement with equitable economic development treaties with its predominantly black neighbors, and the issue of Namibia resolved in that context. ...

"A solution to the problem means that the Republic of South Africa must negotiate through (most probably) Mozambique, and must establish both detente and economic cooperation with Mozambique and Angola. In that case, a treaty-negotiating commission initiated with participation of the Republic of South Africa, Mozambique, and Angola will lead toward rapid and substantial improvements in all matters throughout southern Africa — provided that continental Europe and the United States support this effort."