

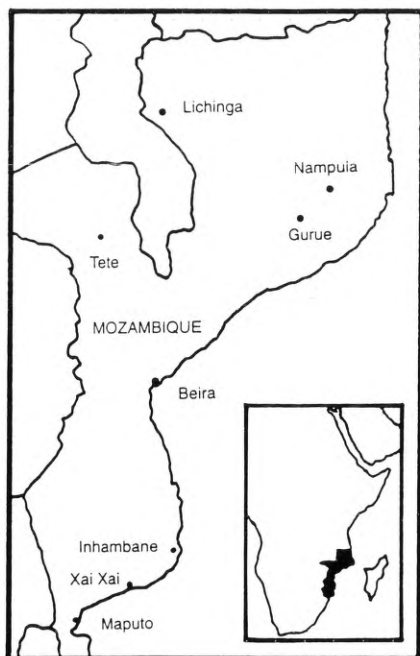
AFP assists in democratic elections in Mozambique

NEWSPAPER reports that members of the first AFP Mozambique contingent were forced to get their drinking water from toilets proved to be wrong, but other aspects reported about the dismal working and living conditions endured by these officers were spot on.

The first contingent returned to Australia on September 19 with the rough weather conditions dogging them all the way from Johannesburg. The Canberra members of the contingent finally touched down at 6pm, three hours later than anticipated.

Having left Australia on March 24 their peacekeeping mission on behalf of the United Nations was to aid civil authorities in restoring law and order to an infrastructure that had broken down during civil war. With Mozambique elections scheduled for late October, the AFP members commanded by Superintendent Bob Bradley joined the UN forces to assist local authorities to maintain order.

Unlike previous UN duty, on this tour the Australian contingent was



Constable Shan Rice and Sergeant Frank Priest examine items similar to the 'fake' designer clothing, shoes and accessories as those which were taken with the second contingent to Mozambique.

split into pairs and given a variety of jobs and assigned to UN positions in Beira, Lichinga, Gurue, Tete, Nampula, Xai Xai, Inhambane, Maputo and Matola.

Second Contingent

The second contingent to Mozambique left Australia on September 1, laden with gifts for the people of the war-torn country.

Taking over the duties of the first contingent, they were able to take with them 15,000 items of leisure wear carrying counterfeit brand names which had been confiscated by the AFP's Western Region in 1991.

Licenses of the authentic trademarks gave permission for the disposal of the goods in this way rather than having the items destroyed.

The clothing, sunglasses and shoes bore imitations of popular brand names such as Esprit, Reebok, Jag, and Bolle.

Along with the confiscated items,

the contingent took 10 complete swing sets donated by Hills Industries Ltd to be distributed among schools.

Getting on with the job

The role of the first contingent was to assist in the re-establishment of the rule of law and assist with the peaceful progress to the October elections. The second contingent arrived to build on this role and to ensure the election-eering period and polling days ran as smoothly as possible.

Reports from the contingent OIC, Superintendent Geoff Hazel, indicate that the second contingent arrived to similar living conditions and operating difficulties to the first contingent.

The work of monitoring local police activities and investigation human rights violations continued, and the activities of disgruntled demobbed soldiers continued to be of concern.

Members of the second contingent experienced similar health problems to the first contingent; malaria and



Sergeant Ross Crafter, member of the first Mozambique Contingent, with wife Lynn and daughter Tara on the contingent's return to Canberra on September 19.

intestinal problems being common ailments. Regardless of these conditions, Superintendent Hazel was able to commend the work being done by the second contingent.

While the election period brought its own set of problems, during this time there was a marked decline in political killings and bombings.

With the elections behind them, the members of the second contingent were able to turn their attention to winding up the UN presence in Mozambique and are looking forward to returning to Australia in mid December.

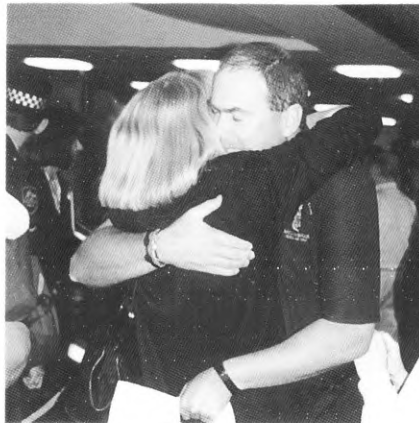
Met by a proud Commissioner

When meeting the Canberra-based members of the first contingent on their return on September 19, Commissioner Palmer said he was very proud of the officers who had made a significant contribution to the United Nations peacekeeping effort.

"I am proud to be a part of a team of officers who can apply such diversity of policing skills under what must have been arduous and testing conditions.

"I must make mention of the family members who gave such tremendous support to their husbands and fathers and through their own sacrifice, have enable Australia to do its duty on the international scene," he said.

The members of the second contingent received a similar welcome home by senior officers of Eastern and ACT Regions.



Sergeant Phil Spence of the first contingent returned to a warm welcome.

Members of Contingent 1

Superintendent Robert Bradley
Sergeant Bert Kuijpers
Sergeant Dave Baker
Sergeant Ross Crafter
Sergeant Chris Dent
Sergeant Phil Spence
Constable Paul Morris
Constable Gary Wood
Constable Shaun Bennetts
Constable Michael Chew
Constable Danny Kindermann
Constable Peter Weedon
Constable Darren Rath
Constable Clive Murray

Members of Contingent 2

Superintendent Geoff Hazel
Sergeant Bob Edwards
Sergeant Keith Martin
Sergeant Frank Priest
Sergeant Rick Smeltink
Constable John Brereton
Constable Mick Calatzis
Constable Andrew Clarke
Constable Aaron Crabtree
Constable Tony Crowe
Detective Constable Adrian Gawned
Constable Rob Gilliland
Detective Constable Kurt Plummer
Constable Shan Rice
Constable Dave Savage
Detective Constable Paul Stewart



Constable John Brereton is welcomed home by ACT Welfare Officer Sergeant Dave Bennett amid the attention of waiting family, relatives and media that were at Canberra Airport for the second contingent's return on December 10.