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Johannesburg Bomb Blast Wounds 10

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Special to The New York Times

JOHANNESBURG, May 28 bomb exploded in the offices of a South African Army medical unit here today, wounding at least 10 people.

There was no immediate word on who planted the bomb, which went off in a high-rise building in central Johannesburg. In the past, the main rebel organization, the African National Congress, based in Zambia, has taken responsibility for such explosions.

Some reports, quoted by the South African Press Association, put the number wounded at 16, but it was not clear how many of those were in serious condition.

The attack was the first against a military installation to have been reported since a car bomb killed 19 people in Pretoria two years ago.

Attack on Mining Companies

The African National Congress is the most prominent of exiled and outlawed groups waging urban warfare against the white minority authorities and their policies of racial compartmentalization, known as apartheid. On April 30, the Congress said its operatives were "probably" responsible for two explosions at the offices here of major gold-mining corporations that had just dismissed over 17,000 black workers.

Witnesses said the explosion rocked the building at 3 P.M. The police immediately cordoned off the area and kept reporters and photographers

away.

The blast came one day after a 21year-old black South African, Jabu Ngobese, was jailed for 15 years on treason charges after admitting he was a member of the African National Congress. He had been charged with bringing arms and explosives into South Africa and hiding them in caches near Johannesburg.

The Congress's operations have been severely hampered by South Africa's nonaggression treaties with Mozambique and Swaziland, which have sealed the guerrillas' traditional transit corridors into this country.

Ambush in Angola

South Africa now says that Angola has become the guerrillas' main host country. Two South African soldiers were killed and a third was captured in northern Angola last week during what the authorities here described as a covert intelligence-gathering mission directed at insurgent bases.

The Angolans say the South Africans were planning to sabotage United States oil installations in the northern

enclave of Cabinda.

In Cape Town today, the Minister of Defense, Magnus Malan, defended the operation and renewed South Africa's assertion that the commandos, said to belong to an elite and secretive reconnaissance unit, were on an espionage mission and not involved in "an attack operation." They were lightly armed, the minister said, and had been surprised when leaving a temporary base.

The minister said it would be a diffi-

cult and lengthy process to have the bodies and the captive, identified here as Wynand du Toit, repatriated because Angola planned to seek maximum propaganda advantages by showing off the wounded captive.

South African newspaper editorials,

particularly those in the Afrikaans press, have registered dismay at the incident, but have generally sought to support the official line that South Africa has no option but to seek intelligence about foes based in Angola in or-

der to protect its borders.

"The first rule of the game," the Afrikaans Sunday newspaper Rapport said two days ago of the incident in northern Angola, "is that you must not be caught."