

Washington Post, 26 March 1979

Oil Tank Attacks Claimed By Rebels in Mozambique

W. POST 26 MCH 79

LISBON, March 25 (AP)—Rebels fighting Mozambique's government of President Samora Machel have asserted responsibility for setting fire to three huge fuel tanks near Beira in Mozambique, Portugal's national news agency ANOP said today.

It reported that an anonymous telephone caller, identifying himself as the spokesman for the RMN resistance group, said it attacked the Munhava fuel depot Friday. He said "18 enemy soldiers were hit" in the attack.

The Mozambican government issued a statement Saturday blaming the "sabotage" on unspecified enemies. It did not mention Rhodesia, and Rhodesian military authorities said the attack was "news to us."

Rhodesian military units and war-

planes have made raids into Mozambique against bases of black nationalist guerrillas trying to overthrow Rhodesia's bi-racial government. Beira, one of Mozambique's major port cities, is about 100 miles east of the border with Rhodesia.

Reports reaching Portugal said three fuel tanks belonging to Mobil and Petromac, the Mozambican oil company, were set ablaze, with the loss and damages estimated at \$3 million.