

Rebel designs against Maputo

D.N. 22 Oct. '79

THE Mozambique Minister for Foreign Affairs, Ndugu Joachim Chissano has said the so-called national resistance movement, ostensibly fighting against FRELIMO's government, was composed of mercenaries deployed into Mozambique by the Salisbury rebel regime.

Speaking to reporters at the Dar es Salaam Airport on Saturday before leaving for Maputo, Ndugu Chissano said the mercenaries who were

being sent into Mozambique from Military bases in Rhodesia, included Mozambican nationals "who have betrayed the revolution in our country".

"The desparate traitors were now leading the racist troops backed by mercenaries into Mozambique to cause havoc", he said.

Ndugu Chissano was commenting on wire service reports from London quoting South African News media,

that troops of a movement calling itself "The National Resistance" had captured a town in Sofala province and were now operating in Gorongosa area, which is a national reserve.

Ndugu Chissano said there was nothing new in the reports. "Mozambique has told the international community on many occasions that our country is under constant attack from troops of Ian Smith based in Rhodesia,

who are backed up by mercenaries and misguided Mozambicans", he said.

The Minister said the minority regime in Rhodesia had increased the deployment of mercenaries in Mozambique to justify that the regime was powerful so that they could negotiate from a position of strength at the London constitutional conference on the future of Zimbabwe.

Ndugu Chissano, who made

a day's stop-over in Dar es Salaam on transit to Maputo from New York where he attended the United Nations General Assembly, said regardless of the current events, the rebel regime troops and the mercenaries would be rooted and defeated.

Insurgency by mercenaries and traitors against Mozambique, he said, would come to an end when the minority regime is removed from power.