

Mugabe

RDM
meets 24/5/80

Machel

in Beira

SALISBURY. — The Prime Minister of Zimbabwe, Mr Robert Mugabe, flew to Mozambique yesterday for talks with President Samora Machel, a government spokesman said.

It was not immediately known why the Beira meeting had been arranged at short notice.

The meeting comes amid reports of renewed fighting in a little-known five-year conflict between Mozambican forces and rebels near the Zimbabwe border.

A Zimbabwean reporter, Wilfred Mbanga, reported after a visit the south-east of Zimbabwe this week, that scores of refugees were crossing into Mozambique after fighting in the area.

Refugees interviewed by Mbanga spoke of clashes between government troops and rebels of the Mozambique National Resistance (MNR) in the Espungabera district.

They claimed that Mozambican troops had burnt down huts and moved inhabitants to "consolidated villages" under the guard of soldiers — evidently to prevent local peasants providing food and shelter to the rebels.

In Johannesburg, the MNR issued a statement yesterday saying the movement's commander, Mr Andre Matade Matsangai, was killed last week in clashes with Mozambican troops. — Sapa-AP.