

We may invade, Mugabe is warned

Own Correspondent

SOBON — The Mozambican national resistance force promised yesterday to unleash war in Zimbabwe if Prime Minister Robert Mugabe made good his threat to join the Machel Regime in fighting the anti-communist rebels.

A spokesman for the FIM also denied Mr Mugabe's accusations that the insurgents were using Zimbabwean territory and leaving South African

Evio Fernandes, the movement's representative in Western Europe, said Pretoria was "stupid and arrogant" in not supporting the rebels and threatened they would launch "some surprising actions" in Mozambique in the near future.

"If Mugabe joins our (Mozambican) enemies and intervenes in Mozambique, we will strike back in full force in Zimbabwe," Mr Fernandes said.

He said Mr Mugabe's announcement on Saturday that his forces would

link up with Mozambican troops in joint action against them was "a dramatic admission of our strength — and denial that we (the RNM) were simply a creation" of the Ian Smith regime.

Claiming to have almost 5 000 men armed with captured Soviet bloc weapons, Mr Fernandes said the movement planned to reply to the Mozambique-Zimbabwe alliance by intensifying its fight in southern Gaza Province, moving into Inhambane Province and launching some surprising actions in the near future.

He described Mr Mugabe's charge that South African planes were supplying the RNM at bases in Zimbabwe as fantasy and denied reports that the movement leader and its Radio Free Africa station had moved to South Africa after Mr Mugabe took power in Salisbury.

"Pretoria has adopted the stupid and wrong policy of seeking accommodation with the marxist (Mozambican) regime," he said.