

Anti-Frelimos warn Mugabe

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Argus

Argus Correspondent

LISBON. — The Mozambican National Resistance guerrillas here promised to unleash war in Zimbabwe if the Prime Minister, Mr Robert Mugabe, makes good his threat to join the Machel regime in fighting the anti-communist rebels

A spokesman for the RNM also denied Mr Mugabe's accusation that the insurgents were using Zimbabwean territory and that they were receiving South African aid.

SA 'WRONG'

Mr Eyo Fernandes, the movement's representative for Western Europe, said that Pretoria was 'stupid and wrong' in not supporting the rebels, and threatened that they would launch 'some surprising actions' in Mozambique soon.

'If Mugabe joins our enemies and intervenes in Mozambique, we will strike back in full force in Zimbabwe.'

Mr Fernandes said Mr Mugabe's announcement on Saturday that his forces would link with Mozambican troops in 'joint action' against the guerrillas was 'dramatic admission of our strength' and 'a denial that we were simply a creation' of the former 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'.

He described Mr Mugabe's charge that South African planes were supplying the RNM at bases in Zimbabwe as 'fantasy' and denied reports that leaders and its radio 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, but we will continue our struggle even though Mugabe may create extra difficulties for us.'

SABOTAGE

Mr Fernandes claimed responsibility for a sabotage raid on a power plant that blacked out Beira recently.

He also confirmed South African news reports that guerrilla chief Andre Matade had been killed in action in Mozambique.

He said Matade died 'in a burst of machine-gun fire' last October near the central town of Vila Gorongosa (formerly Vila Paiva Andrade) 'as he led a strike force of five men.'