

Mozambican dissidents' reported decision to ask for external assistance

Johannesburg in English for abroad 2100 gmt 6 Dec and 0400 gmt 7 Dec 81

The Mozambique National Resistance has announced that it is considering requesting external assistance to intensify the guerrilla war against the government of President Samora Machel. "Radio Free Africa", the resistance clandestine radio station, said this decision had been taken in view of the fact that the Mozambique Government had requested military assistance from Zimbabwe to fight the guerrilla opposition. Earlier reports said a total of 1,200 Zimbabwean troops had been deployed alongside Frelimo forces in anti-guerrilla military operations in Mozambique's southern provinces of Manica and Sofala. In its latest broadcast "Radio Free Africa" said clashes between Government troops backed by Zimbabweans and rebel forces had already taken place in the regions of (?Chiquari) and (?Matavi). The resistance strategy in the face of the attacks would be to withdraw from the operational bases and avoid direct combats. "Radio Free Africa" added that aircraft from the Zimbabwean air force had arrived at Chimoio, formerly Vila Pery, and were being used in the operations.