

Guardian(Br)

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Mozambique rebels

From Joseph Hanlon
in Maputo

Four men accused of being rebels have been summarily executed in Mozambique before an approving crowd of 2,000, including two senior government ministers.

The executions took place at a public meeting in Macia, 75 miles north of Maputo. The deputy defence minister, General Sebastiao Mabote, who ordered the executions, and the Foreign Minister, Mr Joaquim Chissano, were at the public meeting. Both are members of the Frelimo Politburo, Mozambique's highest political body.

Excerpts were broadcast by Mozambique Radio. The four who admitted belonging to the Mozambique National Resistance, were presented to the crowd and General Mabote asked what should be done with them. "Kill them," the crowd yelled back. The general then asked the people if they wanted to kill the men themselves. "Yes," they screamed.

But General Mabote said there might be enemy agents present who would take reprisals, and summoned a platoon of soldiers to execute the four men summarily.

Macia has been the scene of heavy fighting between the MNR and the army recently. But the executed men were captured in Dindiza, 100 miles to the north.