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Guerrillas claim sabotage of Beira oil pipeline

BY JIM JONES IN JOHANNESBURG

THE OIL pipeline linking the Mozambican port of Beira with Zimbabwe has been sabotaged and put out of action "for a long time," according to the Mozambican guerrilla organisation, the MNR. Mr Jorge Correia, the MNR's spokesman in Lisbon, said at the weekend that the pipeline had been attacked to put pressure on Zimbabwe to remove its troops from Mozambique.

Zimbabwean soldiers have been operating in Mozambique for over a year at the request of the country's Frelimo government, both to protect the railway and pipeline linking land-locked Zimbabwe with the Indian Ocean port of Beira and to support the Government in Maputo against the MNR.

The MNR has received con-

siderable military and logistic support from South Africa, though this was supposed to have ended with the signing of the Nkomati Agreement in March 1984.

Sabotage of the pipeline leaves Zimbabwe almost entirely reliant on South Africa's ports and railways for its oil imports and it came only two days after South Africa itself had introduced a licensing system for imports from Zimbabwe. South African officials say that the licensing regulations are neither intended to prevent Zimbabwean imports from entering the country nor as retaliation for Zimbabwe's support for economic sanctions against South Africa. Almost half Zimbabwe's manufactured exports go to South Africa.