

Attacks from Malawi denied

LISBON. — Right-wing rebels fighting the marxist-led government in Mozambique yesterday denied allegations that they had launched attacks from Malawian territory.

The Mozambican National Resistance (MNR) said in a statement that it "Does not have and has never had any guerrilla forces nor logistic or other facilities in Malawian territory".

"MNR does not use, does not violate and does not need Malawian territory," the statement, distributed in Lisbon, said.

Mozambican President Samora Machel has accused Malawi of allowing MNR rebels to use its territory as a springboard for strikes in the northern Mozambican provinces of Zambezia and Tete.

The MNR has fought Mozambique's marxist-led government almost since independence from Portugal in 1975.

Mozambique has accused South Africa of continuing to support the group in breach of a 1984 non-aggression pact.

Pres Machel met other heads of Southern Africa's Frontline States in Maputo on Sunday. The group — Mozambique, Angola, Botswana, Zambia, Tanzania and Zimbabwe — accused

Pretoria of carrying out a policy of aggression and destabilisation in the region.

The six states also accused Malawi of being an instrument of Pretoria's policy by allowing MNR to operate from its territory.

Malawi denies giving any assistance to MNR and has agreed to set up a joint border security commission with Mozambique.

Leaders of the Frontline States said Malawi was supporting "bandits" operating against President Samora Machel's government and gave Mozambique a free hand to deal with the situation, the semi-official news agency, Zinaa, reports.

They also said South Africa had concentrated troops along its borders with Mozambique and Zimbabwe, and called for international assistance to enable Mozambique and other Frontline States to defend themselves against the South African aggression.

In an anguished voice, Zambia's President Kenneth Kaunda told a questioner at a Press conference at the end of the one day urgent summit: "We have left everything in the hands of our host (Mozambique). We tried the hand of peace — it has led us nowhere.."