

MOZAMBIQUE

Anti-Machel movement has some success

José Ramalho



Is Frelimo really in total control over the whole of Mozambique as the Marxist regime of Samora Machel keeps telling the world? Definitely not so, claims the anti-Frelimo guerrilla movement Resistência

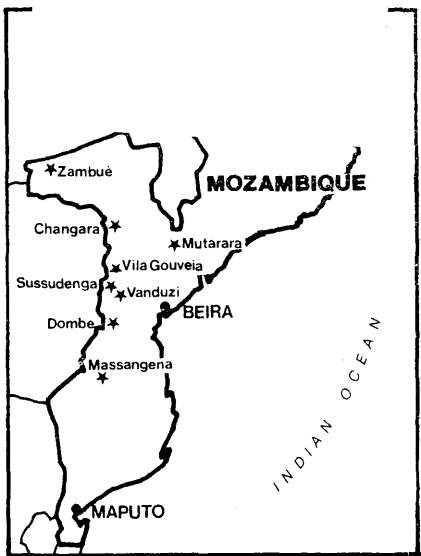
Moçambicana (RNM), which has as motto "Guerra e Morte ao Inimigo da Pátria" (War and Death to the Enemy of the Motherland).

Unlike underground forces elsewhere, the RNM seldom blows its own trumpet. This has helped to weave around it a veil of mystery which is only occasionally pierced by a rare communiqué smuggled out of their bases deep inside Mozambique. (TO THE POINT, August 19 1977).

The Resistance leaders, most of them veteran Frelimo guerrillas during the war against the Portuguese, who are disgusted with Machel's autocratic rule and are now fighting to give the impression of being obsessed with preserving their credibility. This was apparent again last week when a report on their operations reached to THE POINT. It was supported by a set of colour photographs, taken with the clear intention of providing reference points to place the action.

The main claim made — confirmed by independent sources reporting from Mozam-

...where in Mozambique': a Resistance camp



Strikes claimed in the Resistance communique

bique — is that the Resistance forces now control vast areas of central Mozambique, extending from the coastal town of Beira to the Rhodesian border to the west and northwards to the crucial Tete province where the giant Cabora-Bassa dam is situated. Moreover, the communique lists actions as far north as Milange, near the Malawi border,



Resistance: 'War and death to the enemy of the Motherland'

and as deep south as Massangena on the Save River. The Resistance has lately issued warnings to travellers to refrain from driving along the roads of Manica, Tete and north Sofala, in view of the danger of falling into guerrilla ambushes.

□ August 23 — Resistance forces clashed with some 60 Frelimo soldiers at Monte Chito, killing 24 and injuring many others. In follow-up operations, the Frelimo base camp at Monte Nhacouro was wiped out and the Resistance recovered large quantities of weapons and ammunition. The food found at the base was handed over to the local people

□ August 28 — In the Mavonde area, two trucks and a Land Rover were set on fire. The passengers were set free after ascertaining that they had been forced to co-operate with Frelimo.

In the beginning of September, Resistance units operating in the Zambue area of Tete reported that a large number of Frelimo soldiers surrendered to the guerrillas.

□ September 3 — Clash with Frelimo forces

in the Vanduzi area, near the Mkombezi River. Frelimo casualties were 19 dead and several injured.

□ September 5 — In the Sussudenga area, more than 200 Frelimo soldiers abandoned their barracks and fled to Chimoio.

In the second week of September, Resistance units permanently based in Changara and Cuchamano inflicted heavy casualties on Frelimo in running clashes.

□ September 10 — Guerrilla units operating in the Milanga area reached Mutarara, to the south, where they were warmly welcomed by the local population.

Claiming to have killed more than 100 Frelimo soldiers during the latest operations, the Resistance reported the deaths of three of their men killed by Rhodesian forces in the operational area of Chimoio when the anti-Frelimo soldiers were mistaken for ZANU terrorists of the Robert Mugabe army based in Mozambique.

Machel has taken great pains to minimise the effects on Frelimo's morale of the Resistance successes and dismisses the anti-government forces as "imperialist agents out to destroy the conquests of the Marxist revolution".

But the stringent security measures taken lately which culminated in the setting up of thousands of "vigilante groups" throughout the country, belie the façade of self-assurance he has been trying to present to the world.

Fierce police repression in a country afflicted with a crumbling economy, soaring unemployment and ever more acute food shortages, has made many people turn to the Resistance as their saviours.

In a statement made to TTP, a Resistance spokesman described his organisation as "the armed wing of the Mozambican people" and said its ultimate aim was to create the conditions for Mozambicans to have a government of their own choosing instead of being ruled by a former terrorist movement thrust on them by the debacle that followed the end of the Portuguese administration.

Vila Pery: Resistance column on operations

