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Zimbabwe Vows Action

On Mozambique Rebels

SALISBURY, Zimbabwe, May 24 (Reuters) — Prime Minister Robert Mugabe said today that he had agreed to take action against rebels fighting the forces of President Samora Machel of Mozambique.

Mr. Mugabe, who met Mr. Machel yesterday for talks in the Mozambican port of Beira, said that under a new joint strategy his forces would strike at rebels fleeing across the border into Zimbabwe.

"Reports we have are to the effect that when they are hit on Mozambique soil they cross the border into Zimbabwe," he said at a news conference. "We have the right to clear them from our area and the Mozambiqueans will insure that they are accounted for on their side."

Mr. Mugabe indicated that the joint strategy with Mozambique had been worked out at the meeting. He said Mozambican dissidents were no longer receiving support in Zimbabwe, the former white-ruled British colony of Rhodesia.

The former Rhodesian Government of Ian D. Smith backed and helped train rebels from Zambia and Mozambique in an effort to weaken those countries, which provided bases for guerrillas fighting the Rhodesian forces.