

Machel forces ^{CTI} kill 272 rebels ^{11/7}₈₀

MAPUTO. — Mozambican forces have attacked and occupied the main camp of a rebel group, the National Resistance Movement (MNR), killing 272 rebels and capturing more than 300, the army announced yesterday.

A spokesman for the "People's Liberation Forces" said that the camp was in the Sitatonga mountain range in Mozambique's Manica province, about 50 km from the border with Zimbabwe.

The announcement, broadcast over Radio Mozambique, did not say when the attack occurred, but said that it had followed a series of military operations launched by the Mozambican forces against the rebels.

The MNR emerged after Mozambique's independence on June 25, 1975, as an army of 4 000 men pledged to overthrow the Marxist government of President Samora Machel and free political prisoners.

The rebels are mostly dissident former guerrillas of Mr Machel's Frelimo army, who fought the Portuguese colonial rulers for 10 years till independence.