

Frelimo destroys rebel HQ in blitz

Staff Reporter

MOZAMBIQUE Radio reports Government troops have led the main base of the Frelimo Resistance Movement, killing 272 rebels and taking another 300.

The base was in the Sitamontains in the Manica province, 50km from the Zimbarwean border.

The broadcast said that of those captured are ex-members of the Portuguese commandos as well as local military groups that fought the independence war on the Portuguese side, such as the Frelimo, OPV and GES.

The radio alleged the rebels received logistic support from South Africa, specially since the independence of Zimbarwe.

and added that ammunition boxes found at the base had inscriptions in both English and Afrikaans.

This claim was rejected by Defence Headquarters in Pretoria yesterday.

The Mozambique report also said the army had freed local civilians being held prisoner by the rebels.

Mopping-up operations are continuing.

The radio reported that a prisoner named as Agostinho Tiago told Mozambique newsmen that supplies had been "dropped over the base at 5.45 in the afternoon of June 20, by two Nord Atlas aircraft that had flown in from the south".

The attack comes after a visit to Salisbury early last month

by a high-ranking Mozambican mission, which included the political commissar of the army, Mr Armando Guebuza; the Chief of Staff, Mr Sebastiao Mabote; the Minister of State Security, Mr Jacinto Veloso; and the Air Force Commander, Mr Americo Mapumbo.

The group discussed plans for a joint military strategy against the Mozambican rebels with a Zimbarwean delegation led by the Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office, Mr Emerson Munangagwa, and other security officials — among them the former head of Rhodesian Intelligence, Mr Ken Flower.

Earlier the rebel radio had complained that the MRM faced extinction because Mr Flower, who had been the liai-

son man between the movement and the ex-Rhodesian government, knew their structures, locations of camps, objectives, identities of collaborators inside Mozambique, and their "places of refuge".

The Defence Force spokesman in Pretoria said any weapons or ammunition of South African origin found by Frelimo after the reported battle was not supplied by the SADF.

He said the SADF was not aware of the possible source of such supplies.

It was pointed out that a large variety of arms of various origins was available in Africa — British mines, United States ammunition and communist weapons, for instance, had been captured from Swapo.