

MNR official on 'final stage' of war

Text of Johannesburg radio report

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The Secretary General of the Mozambique National Resistance Movement, Renamo [MNR], says the war in his country is in its final stage. In an interview with the British Broadcasting Corporation, Mr Evo Fernandes said it was possible that Mr Samora Machel's government would soon be toppled by a coup. Mr Fernandes said the Frelimo forces had little morale left besides their guns [as heard] and that members of the government forces were deserting and joining Renamo with their weapons and ammunition. He added that the Frelimo Government had no money, no exports and that people were starving in the cities and towns. Mr Fernandes denied recent reports that his men had committed atrocities against the people of Mozambique. He said any guerrilla movement needed the support of the local population and if Renamo forces harmed the people they would lose their support. He accepted that soldiers could harm other people but that any Renamo soldier found guilty of harming the local population would be court-martialled.

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