

Mozambique: In Brief

MNR claims capture of "strategic town" in Beira corridor (Text) The Renamo movement [MNR] in Mozambique says its forces have captured the strategic town of Villa Machado in the Beira corridor. In a communique issued in Lisbon, Renamo says it has been holding Villa Machado, which lies astride the vital road and rail link between the port of Beira and Mutare in Zimbabwe since yesterday [16th October]. During the attack on the town, Renamo forces killed 53 Mozambican, 32 Zimbabwean and seven Tanzanian troops and destroyed 12 armoured vehicles. Renamo also claims to have killed 53 government troops in a clash close to the Mozambican border with Ingwavuma in KwaZulu. Renamo says its forces also killed 43 soldiers at Ponta dos Ouro in southern Mozambique. The area is on the coast just north of the South African border. (Johannesburg home service in English 1500 gmt 17 Oct 86)