

# 'Believe MNR war victims' X

Herald Reporter

**MR ROBERT GERSONY**, the American expert on refugees who recently completed a study describing MNR atrocities, has appealed to the world to believe what Mozambican refugees say about their plight and help them.

Describing the situation in Mozambique as "one of the worst I have seen", Mr Gersony, an independent consultant to the US Department of State (Foreign Ministry), decried the tendency of the international community to disbelieve reports of suffering given by refugees.



**MR ROBERT GERSONY**

He said there were very few cases in which the testimony of refugees could be contradicted by independent evidence.

Mr Gersony is in Harare as part of an extensive tour of Southern Africa to brief governments and non-governmental organisations on his study of the Mozambican refugee problem. His report shocked the world when it was published last month. H. 20.05.88

He said many refugees were mystified about the intentions of MNR bandits as they made no effort to explain their political objectives or try to win the support of the civilian population in Mozambique. Instead they terrorised the people in the form of forced taxes, forced portage services and indiscriminate killings.

For these reasons, he said, the refugees who fled from Mozambique had no sympathy for the MNR and were unlikely to provide recruits for it.

Mr Gersony said, in general, Mozambican refugees were well taken care of in the countries that gave them asylum.