

Renamo: 'We attacked town'

MAPUTO. -- The rebel Mozambique National Resistance Movement (Renamo) has accepted responsibility for an attack on the southern town of Mmacia on January 7, in which 50 people were killed.

The Italian Ambassador to Maputo, Mr Manfredi di Camerana, cited in a dispatch from the Mozambique News Agency, said that Renamo had conveyed its admission of responsibility to the inter-

national Joint Verification Commission (JVC) which is supervising implementation of a December 1990 partial cease-fire.

Mmacia lies within the Limpopo corridor, one of two routes between landlocked Zimbabwe and Mozambican ports that are covered by the partial cease-fire.

Under the December 1990 agreement all Zimbabwean troops in Mozambique were redeployed to within the Lim-

popo and Beira corridors, and in return Renamo pledged it would halt all military activities within the corridors, which are vital for Zimbabwe's trade.

The JVC, which consists of representatives from the three interested parties (Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Renamo) and from nine other countries (Italy, which chairs the commission, the US, Russia, Britain, France, Portugal, Congo, Kenya

and Zambia) sent a team to investigate the Mmacia attack last month.

A JVC document states that this team interviewed survivors — including some who had been kidnapped by Renamo but managed to escape, accepted the government figure for the number of deaths, and concluded that the attack was "most likely carried out by organised Renamo elements". — Sapa-AFP.

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