

Mozambique officers to get British training

From Jan Raath, Harare

Britain is to provide Mozambique with a small amount of non-lethal military aid.

A spokesman for the British High Commission here said that president Machel of Mozambique had requested the aid and that talks between representatives of the two countries had been held since last month.

The agreement had been made with the consent of the Zimbabwe Government and was "to promote peace and security in accordance with the Nkomati Accord", the non-aggression pact signed between South Africa and Mozambique in February last year.

The spokesman said it had been agreed that the British military advisory training team in Zimbabwe, which numbers about 60, would be increased by six instructors to provide tactical training for officers and NCOs from Mozambique.

Radios and uniforms would also be supplied, the spokesman added, but he could not say to what value these would be.

Early this year, the American Government agreed to supply uniforms and radios to Mozambique.

Reports from there say that most of the countryside is held by guerrillas of the Mozambique National Resistance, while the urban areas are under virtual siege. The almost total disruption of administration in the country is said to have led to widespread famine and outbreaks of disease.

The national resistance show little sign of central organisation and correspondents visiting the country describe it as a collective name for scores of independent bands of armed men, intent more on monetary than political gain.