

Machel gets military aid

Own Correspondent

LISBON -- Mozambican and Zimbabwean defence officials this week met in Maputo to co-ordinate strategy for security along their rebel-infested common border, the Portuguese news agency Angop reported yesterday.

The talks were a sequel to a summit meeting between President Samora Machel and Prime Minister Robert Mugabe last Saturday.

The agency said the Maputo meeting aimed at giving concrete form to the summit decision for joint action against rebels in the central border region who threatens Zimbabwe's rail links to Mozambican ports.

In co-ordinated action in June, Mozambique claimed to have killed more than 200 rebels, captured about 500 and destroyed their supply system.

Some 10 000 Mozambican troops launched a three-pronged strike against Mozambican National Resistance strongholds, while Zimbabwean forces massed on the border to block the rebels' escape into sanctuaries in Zimbabwe.

Though rebel activity fell off after the offensive, observers in Lisbon speculated that the new round of talks between the two countries could mean the anti-Machel rebels were on the move again.