

Zania men on border duty

"Mail" Africa Bureau

SALISBURY. — Zimbabwe's government will deploy former Zania guerrillas in the border area as part of a co-ordinated attempt to wipe out anti-Frelimo fighters of the Mozambican Resistance Movement.

Sources close to the Prime Minister, Mr Robert Mugabe, say this was the agreement reached between the Zimbabwean leader and his Mozambican counterpart, President Samora Machel, at their meeting in Quelimane last week.

The meeting took place against a background of heightened activity by the Mozambican rebels resulting in an inflow of refugees into Zimbabwe.

Mr Emmerson Mnangagwa, the Minister of State in charge of security in the office of the prime minister, yesterday led a delegation to Maputo to finalise the details of the agreement.

There are between 2 000 to 3 000 Zania guerrillas in Mozambique who recently returned from military training in Yugoslavia and Ethiopia.

It is likely that these Zania guerrillas will be deployed to rout the dissidents and may be augmented by their restless colleagues in Zimbabwe who have not yet been integrated into the new national army.

Mr Mugabe will have another meeting with President Machel next month to review the security situation on their borders.

Mozambique is Zimbabwe's closest ally and the two countries signed a pact which committed them to eliminating subversive elements operating from their respective territories.