

# We will help Maputo till <sup>H 17/6/58</sup> MNR is crushed—Mugabe

**Herald Reporter**

**ZIMBABWE will continue helping Mozambique defend itself against destabilisation efforts by South Africa which sponsors the MNR bandits, President Mugabe vowed yesterday.**

Speaking just before the hour-long talks he held with visiting New Zealand Foreign Minister, Mr Russell Marshall, in Harare yesterday morning, the President said Zimbabwe's assistance had to be given for the benefit of all, despite the great expense involved.

The President was speaking only hours after a group of 64 surrendered dissidents threatened in Gwanda on Wednesday to return to banditry unless their demands, which include a withdrawal of Zimbabwean troops from Mozambique, were met.

Yesterday the President said there was need for all peace-loving nations to help Mozambique defend its sovereignty.

Zimbabwe had started assisting Mozambique after discussion between the late President Samora Machel, Cde Julius Nyerere, then President of Tanzania and Cde Mugabe.

It was then decided to send Zimbabwean and Tanzanian troops to Mozambique, initially to defend routes to the sea. But, owing to South Africa's destabilisation, the two countries were now giving Mozambique military aid to overcome the MNR bandits.

Zimbabwe, said the President, was doing its best to help Mozambique, which was facing increasing numbers of South African-sponsored bandits.

There was need for the international community to support the establishment of a socio-economic order that would allow greater freedom and human rights in South Africa and the President hoped New Zealand would learn more about South African destabilisation techniques in the region.

He noted that besides Mozambique, South Africa continued to help the Unita bandits in Angola in their efforts to force the Angolan government into an agreement acceptable to the bandits.



**PRESIDENT MUGABE welcomes the visiting New Zealand Foreign Minister, Mr Russell Marshall, and his wife Barbara, to State House before Cde Mugabe, Mr Marshall and the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Cde Nathan Shamuyarira, held discussions.**