

# Frelimo 'cannot Rh. Her. 5/4/78 stop Rhodesia'

Herald Bureau: LONDON

**MOZAMBIQUE is unable to stop the Rhodesians with a 12 000-strong army which, as one Western diplomat has described it, is for the most part poorly trained, poorly equipped and poorly led.**

The description is included in a report from a correspondent of The Times writing from Machipanda.

Apart from the tanks and small amounts of light artillery, diplomatic sources say "a few" MiG jet-fighters have also been received from the Russians, but nothing on the scale expected when the two countries signed a treaty a year ago.

"What they really need is something with which to shoot down those Rhodesian helicopters," a

Western diplomat said, "and it's apparently not coming."

Last week's visit by Mr Sergey Sokolov, the Russian deputy Defence Minister, which produced a new promise of help, coupled with the planned visit by Cuba's Foreign Minister, served, says the correspondent, to strengthen the belief that more aid might be forthcoming now that the war in the Horn of Africa is apparently drawing to a close.

up and new promises of military help, few observers believe a military offensive is imminent."

A Mozambican journalist told The Times correspondent: "We cannot even keep the Rhodesians out — to go in after them would be suicide."

## CUBA'S ROLE

He adds: "Cuba's military role here has increased slightly in recent months, according to the sources, but while the total number of Cubans is put at 400 to 600, diplomatic estimates of the number of military advisers vary widely, ranging from 50 to 500.

"Officials here insist that Mozambique will fight its own wars, and despite the border build-