

Rebels' link revealed

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New evidence of South African support for the anti-Frelimo Mozambique National Resistance (MNR) was released yesterday by the Mozambican government.

The evidence is in four reports of meetings between MNR officials and South Africans at the South African base at Zoabostad, in the northern Transvaal, in November 1980. The documents were retrieved from a latrine at a resistance base at Garagua, after the base was captured in December. All four reports were signed by the resistance commander, Alfonso Dhlakama.

In one report, an unnamed South African brigadier is quoted as promising specialists to train MNR fighters in the use of heavy weapons and sabotage. In another, a South African Colonel Charlie said that the instructors would not only go to Mozambique to

teach, but also to take part in attacks.

At a dinner for Colonel Charlie, Mr Dhlakama said that "now all depends on you. You are now like our parents." In another report, Mr Dhlakama thanks the South Africans for evacuating his wife from Zimbabwe to South Africa after Lancaster House.

One report quotes Orlando Cristina as suggesting that the resistance should "destroy the power line transporting energy from Cahora Bassa to South Africa, to mask the existence of South African support for the MNR." He notes that this would not harm South Africa, as Cahora Bassa supplies only a small part of its electricity.

The documents make clear that after some disputes, Mr Cristina has taken on the role of link-man between the MNR and the South Africans. Orlando Cristina was the first Portuguese secret police agent to infiltrate Frelimo in Tanzania in 1964. After Mozambi-

can independence, he worked with the Rhodesian special branch to set up the MNR. Apparently, he used Portuguese secret police files for his original recruiting in 1976.

One of the captured reports recapitulates the history of the resistance, and notes that "The English Rhodesians determined the areas to attack and recruit, and also determined the limit on recruiting bonuses of \$300 to \$500."

The documents confirm that Zoabostad, 75 miles from the Mozambican border, is the MNR training base.

The papers refer to a struggle for control of the MNR after the Mozambican army killed the previous commander, Andre Matshangaiza, in 1979. "This year many fighters, including commanders and chiefs, have died and others have been crippled because of drugs. All this is because of power struggles," Mr Dhlakama admits.