

Mozambique Is Said to Attack Rebels

LISBON – Thousands of Mozambican troops have launched a major offensive against rebel bases in an attempt to clear the main road and rail link to Zimbabwe, a guerrilla spokesman here said Monday.

Fighting is raging on either side of the route between the Mozambique port of Beira and Mutare (formerly Umtali), 100 miles (250 kilometres) to the west in Zimbabwe, a spokesman of the Mozambique National Resistance said.

The Lisbon Socialist daily Portugal Hoje reported from Mozambique that the Mozambican army, backed by air force and artillery, was attacking rebel strongholds in Manica province bordering Zimbabwe to try to flush out some 2,000 guerrillas.