

Mozambique takes resistance base

From Joseph Hanlon
in Maputo

The Mozambican army yesterday captured the Mozambique National Resistance base used to attack traffic through Mozambique between Malawi and Zimbabwe. At least three people were killed in attacks on the road, and Zimbabwe-Malawi traffic was diverted through Zambia.

Radio Mozambique, quoting

military sources, said the base was in southern Tete, near the border with Manica Province. Local residents led the Mozambican soldiers to the base, the radio said, and 27 MNR men were killed, and eight captured. An undisclosed number of civilians kidnapped by the group were freed.

The army said that it found mortars, mines, and ammunition in the base.

Meanwhile, Mozambique

began its three-day Independence celebrations holiday quietly. In Maputo, people flooded into shops and consumer cooperatives to buy beer and extra food that had been put on sale for the holiday. In Beira, too, there was extra food, and special shops were designated to sell prawns in order to meet the demand. Parties began last night and will continue through the weekend.