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# Lt Bomba fighting for rebels

By DAVE SPIRO

LIEUTENANT Adriano Bomba, the Frelimo defector, is definitely in Mozambique and fighting for the resistance movement.

This was confirmed by Dr Evo Fernandez, leader of the Resistencia Nacional Mocambicana MNR.

Speaking from the Lisbon headquarters of the movement Dr Fernandez said "Adriano Bomba is now in Mozambique. He is head of the information desk for our movement. He is there to coordinate our efforts in the struggle to free our country."

Lieut Bomba joined the movement after he left the South African Air Force, which he joined after his defection, in April.

Bomba apparently moves around the battle-torn Mozambique bush and reports back to the resistance headquarters at regular intervals.

## Offer of Truce

Dr Fernandez also said that two weeks ago a public offer for a truce in the six-year old war was sent to President Samora Machel but so far there had only been silence from Maputo.

"We want to end the bloodshed and have free elections but Machel is frightened of losing his power and his grip on the country. We are at present negotiating with certain Frelimo officers in foreign countries. It is impossible to reveal their whereabouts because of the great danger involved."

The officers will have to make their way back to Mozambique in the very near future as Dr Fernandez claims, "our forces are now only 70 km from the capital. We now control an area stretching from the Indian Ocean to Zimbabwe and as far north as the Malawi border. We are also in control of Zambezi and Maputo provinces. Machel must realise that we are now strong enough to take the capital by force. We only wish he would negotiate."

Dr Fernandes fears that if the war goes on much longer Mozambique will face dire economic problems and that there are already serious food shortages in the country.

"The only aim of the resistance," Dr Fernandez said, "is to have free elections. This is the reason Bomba defected, he thought that by going to South Africa he could carry on the struggle. Instead he found that the Pretoria government only wanted to use him for their own propaganda programme. In the end he left South Africa and joined our movement in the belief that he could achieve more by working with the MNR."