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BEIRA OIL TANKS BURN

By Christopher Munnlon
in Harare

OIL storage tanks in the port of Beira were still burning fiercely yesterday after a sabotage attack during the night by guerrillas of the Mozambique Resistance Movement.

The movement, which Mozambique's Marxist Government claims is backed by South Africa, also said it had blown up the main pumping station on the Mozambique-Zimbabwe oil pipeline.

Government officials confirmed that fire had engulfed the Shell and British Petroleum complex, and the pipeline to Zimbabwe had been shut down.

In Lisbon, Mr Evo Fernandes, spokesman for the Mozambique Resistance Movement, said the attack was a "solemn warning" to Mr. Mugabe, Zimbabwe's Prime Minister, for having sent "5,000 troops" to back Mozambique's Government.

Landlocked Zimbabwe is heavily dependent on the Beira pipeline for petrol and diesel supplies.