

Mozambique's Jittery Neighbors

Mozambique's "frontline" neighbors are so alarmed at the growing strength of the Mozambique National Resistance—a right-wing black guerrilla group thought to have South African backing—that they're offering increased military support to the embattled government of President Samora Machel. Even Great Britain has offered to aid Mozambique, which was once pro-Soviet but has since moved closer to the West; Machel has cooperated with the U.S.-backed peace plan for southern Africa. Lately, guerrillas from the MNR have been active in many parts of the country, moving in close to the outskirts of Maputo, the capital; earlier this month they attacked a convoy of buses some 30 miles north of Maputo, inflicting heavy casualties on the passengers. At a recent meeting in the Zimbabwe capital of Harare, Prime Minister Robert Mugabe offered to send 6,000 more soldiers to Mozambique, where 3,000 Zimbabwe soldiers already guard road and rail links and an oil pipeline. In addition, Zambia offered logistical support and Tanzania agreed to reopen training bases—formerly used by Machel's guerrillas when they were fighting Portuguese colonial troops before independence in 1975. *Newsweek 15/7/85, p.9*