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o Mozambique National Resistance (MNR) secretary-general Evo Fernandes has admitted that rebel forces have been forced to give ground in the face of the recent joint Mozambique-Zimbabwe offensive in the central provinces (AED 14:9:85). But, at an 18 October press conference in London, Fernandes claimed the August capture of the MNR's 'Casa Banana' headquarters in Gorongosa mountain in northern Sofala province was "a setback but not a major defeat." MNR forces had already regrouped north of Gorongosa and were now attacking supply lines for the up to 15,000 Zimbabwe troops deployed in the country, he added. Fernandes claimed only 100 rebel troops had been killed in the offensive and that other bases subsequently taken had been abandoned by the MNR several years ago. Similar claims were made in a 16 October MNR statement issued in Lisbon, which said that only a number of "empty and half-burned out" bases had been captured at the cost of 400 Mozambique-Zimbabwe troops killed. The government armed forces radio Voz de Combate claimed on 21 October that two further bases had been captured in Maputo and Inhambane provinces, in addition to the earlier capture of Mapulanguere camp, five kilometres from the South African border.