Rebels Surrender, Suffer 'Deteriorating Morale' MB191601 London BBC World Service in English 1515 GMT 19 Apr 88

[Text] According to reports coming out of Mozambique, government forces there took control earlier this month of several MNR rebel positions. At the same time, it looks as though more rebels, faced with deteriorating morale, have surrendered under an amnesty offered at the beginning of the year.

From Beira, Julio Bica cabled us this report.

[Begin Bica recording] According to the Inhambane provincial military commandant, Lieutenant Colonel Eusebio Lambo, the Mozambican Army has taken control of the rebels' (Amungue) camp in the province. The camp is situated in the middle of Panda, Morrumbene and Homoine Districts. Last year, a large group of rebels attacked Homoine District and killed more than 400 people. Authorities here have not confirmed as to whether that rebel group came from this camp.

The commandant did not give casualty figures of both sides, but added that about 200 people who were forced to live with the rebels in the bush were freed. Small rebel camps have also been destroyed by the army in Inharrime and Jangamo Districts, which are also in Inhambane Province.

Other reports from Inhambane speak of deteriorating relations between rebels resulting from the desire of many rebels to surrender in order to benefit from the amnesty offer of the Mozambican parliament. [end recording]