

# Maputo coup fears

MAPUTO—An elite commando unit of Mozambican rebels has been trained in Morocco in preparation for a bid to seize power in the capital Maputo, a high-ranking Mozambican army officer charged yesterday.

The officer, whose name was not disclosed, said in the independent Mediafax daily that recent ambushes on the Mozambique-Swaziland road, as well as a June 30 raid on Namaacha town, on the Swazi border, were the work of "Renamo commandos trained in Morocco".

"According to Renamo's calculations, a force of 2 000 men would be sufficient to stage this coup, advancing to Maputo from South African bases along the border," said the officer.

The commandos of Renamo are based at Ngungwe on the border with South Africa, the officer declared. The Mozambican press has repeatedly claimed that Ngungwe is supplied direct-

ly from South Africa, in violation of a non-aggression pact.

In Friday's article, the officer said Renamo planned not to include the commando force in a demobilisation of both sides it has demanded at the latest round of peace talks currently under way in Rome.

Renamo would then bid to "take power by force," he said.

Mediafax, a newsheet produced by a co-operative of journalists, is the only daily Mozambican publication completely independent of the State.

Relations between the Mozambican Government and Rabat are extremely poor in view of Maputo's longstanding support for the Polisario Front in the Western Sahara, occupied by Morocco.

Swaziland is also accused of facilitating Renamo's plans. Large amounts of weaponry are entering Mozambique via Swaziland, the newsheet charged. — (Sapa-AFP)