

Zimbabwe to push out Taputo rebels

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SALISBURY. — Zimbabwe is mounting operations to crush Taputo gangs using its army as a sanctuary from Mozambican forces.

The two countries are working out a joint strategy to harness the Mozambique Resistance Movement, which operates in southern parts of the Portuguese colony.

It was confirmed at the end by the Zimbabwean Minister, Mr Robert Mugabe, who flew to Beira for talks with President Nino Maciel of Mozambique Friday.

The leaders agreed on a plan to work for peace,

security and stability in the region.

The meeting, at President Maciel's request, followed reports of more clashes in southern Mozambique and the arrival in Zimbabwe of a number of refugees from the area during the past week.

There are suspicions in official circles in Zimbabwe that the guerrilla movement is now being supplied from South Africa since the change of government in Salisbury.

It is believed that many of the former Rhodesian government's top-secret security files were dispatched to Pretoria immediately after Mr Mugabe's victory at the polls.

Asked at his weekend Press conference whether action

against the resistance movement could bring Zimbabwe into conflict with South Africa, Mr Mugabe said: "How does this offend South Africa, unless it is promoting these dissident elements?"

Mr Mugabe said he did not know what the actual situation was, but there had been reports of the "dissidents" operating on Zimbabwe's border and receiving supplies.

"We are not giving them those supplies, and one wonders who is flying supplies to them," he said.

He said it was known that counter-revolutionary forces and some "elements" from Zimbabwe went to South Africa after his election victory.

He said if counter-revolution-

ary forces were operating on Zimbabwean soil, it was an infringement of the government's authority and he had a duty to get rid of them.

If they were allowed to continue it would imply that Zimbabwe was acting against a good neighbour.

"We will remove criminals from our soil and the dangers from Mozambique, which is entitled to get rid of subversive elements."

Mr Mugabe says it is believed that the resistance fighters seek shelter in Zimbabwe when they are hit by the Mozambican forces.

"We have the right to clear them on our side of the border."