

Zimbabwe moves against 'rebels'

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LISBURY — Zimbabwe's military forces are to be mobilised against the Mozambique national resistance group which the Prime Minister, Robert Mugabe, hinted receiving supplies from South Africa.

According to sources here, it is inevitable that the Zimbabwe forces will be used to crush the rebels, possibly even the black all-white Rhodesian Light Infantry.

Zimbabwe and Mozambique are formulating a joint strategy "to wipe out the anti-Frelimo resistance movement."

Mr Mugabe said joint action was discussed at a meeting on Friday with President Samora Machel in Beira.

Afterwards, the two leaders agreed on the

need to work for permanent peace, security and stability in the region.

Mr Mugabe said: "Dis-sidents and reactionary elements cannot be allowed to continue operating on our soil or in Mozambique."

"If there are counter-revolutionary forces on our soil fighting Mozambique, that is an infringement of our authority and we are duty bound to get rid of them."

Action against the Mozambique Resistance Movement, would amount to removing a "criminal presence," he said.

"We have the right to clear them from our soil."

Asked if the clean-up would bring Zimbabwe into conflict with South Africa, Mr Mugabe indicated it would not unless South Africa was actively supporting the resistance fighters.