

We caused Beira fire — resistance group

Own Correspondent

LISBON. — The sabotage attack last Friday on major oil storage installations outside Beira, Mozambique's second city, was the work of a little-known group called the Mozambican National Resistance Movement, it was reported in Portugal yesterday.

A man describing himself as a spokesman for the movement, Mr Roberto Chitanga, distributed a communique claiming his group was responsible for the attack, which destroyed Malawi-destined oil valued at R3-million.

Mr Chitanga gave only sketchy details of the raid, but said 18 Mozambican soldiers

died and one guerrilla was slightly wounded.

activities in the former Portuguese colony have received periodic coverage, mainly in the Lisbon Rightwing Press, but this is the first time a spokesman has surfaced on behalf of the group.

Other exiled Mozambicans based in Lisbon, including the Fumo group headed by Frelimo dissident Dr Domingos Arouca, have denied any links with the sabotage incident.

First reports of the fire, which burned furiously for two days, placed the blame on Rhodesian security forces, but a later Press report pinned responsibility on "terrorist forces paid by the rebel and illegal regime in Rhodesia"