

# Renamo threatens to snatch control

SUN EXPR

84 Aug 26

By DAVE BEATTIE

THE 15 000-strong Mozambican National Resistance guerrilla army (Renamo) has become such a threat to the beleaguered Mozambican government since the Nkomati Accord that South Africa has been forced to act as broker between the two factions.

After the signing of the accord in March the Mozambican and South African governments expected the eight-year-old war to wind down. But Renamo have stepped up attacks on strategic targets, and claim its troops have isolated the capital, Maputo.

Renamo's media officer Mr Jorge Correia threatened this week that unless the Frelimo government submitted to its latest peace proposals, Renamo would take control of the country by military coup in October.

Mr Correia, speaking to the Sunday Express from Lisbon, claimed Renamo troops were prepared for their most determined onslaught on Maputo. He said: ● Renamo troops were stationed 5km from the city centre.

## PEACE PLANNED IN PRETORIA — REPORT

Own Correspondent

LISBON — An outline peace agreement between Mozambique's Marxist government and the rebel Renamo movement may have been hammered out in Pretoria, according to reports published in Lisbon this week.

Although no independent confirmation was available, the reports suggest that the tentative peace deal includes:

- An end to guerrilla fighting.
- A liberalisation of the economic system.
- More flexibility in the nation's constitution.
- A division of ministries between the guerrillas and the government.
- The integration of rebel soldiers into the country's armed forces.

● They controlled all access roads into the city. No traffic was allowed to enter or leave Maputo and water and electricity supplies were at the mercy of the guerrillas.

● Renamo controlled towns and villages in all 10 provinces and had isolated the port of Beira.

Colonel Sergio Veira, the Mozambican chairman of the joint security commission set up under the Nkomati Accord, and a senior member of the Mozambican delegation in Pretoria last week, confirmed there were sporadic

ambushes on the main roads into the city. But, he said, the roads were generally safe.

Mr Correia said three Western European countries had supplied arms to Renamo and were still supplying them. The arms were shipped into Mozambique.

He said a five-man Renamo delegation, headed by secretary-general Mr Evo Fernandes, met senior Frelimo officials in Pretoria last week to exchange proposals on conditions for a cease-fire.

Renamo insisted that Frelimo resign, dissolve the Peo-

ple's Assembly and form a "democratic government based on free enterprise." A coalition government with Frelimo could be worked out only after they had resigned, Mr Correia said.

He said Frelimo had offered to integrate Renamo into the country's existing political system.

The end of August was set as a deadline for the Mozambican government's reply, and the Renamo delegation was staying in Pretoria until that time. In the meantime Renamo would continue the war.

Colonel Veira denied meeting Renamo. He said the Mozambican government had had no official communication with Renamo and had never considered negotiating with them.

He also denied Mozambique had asked South Africa to act as peacemaker, and dismissed Renamo's coup threat as a "hollow boast."

The Mozambican government had repeatedly offered a blanket amnesty to all people who had "committed acts of banditry", and this was still in force. Frelimo would hold a general election next year whether Renamo accepted the amnesty or not, he said.

COLIN E AGNES DARCH  
Av. Mao - Tsé - Tung N.º 1031  
MAPUTO B - 3  
MOÇAMBIQUE

## Unaware

The Mozambican Minister of the Economy, General Jacinto Veloso, said at a Press conference, after talks with the government officials in Pretoria last week, that he was unaware the Renamo delegation was in the country.

This week a spokesman for the Department of Foreign Affairs in Pretoria would not comment on the whereabouts of such a delegation.

He referred to Mr Pik Botha's statement that South Africa and Mozambique would undertake no negotiations without the prior knowledge of the other.

Mr Correia, who is also Renamo's European representative, said South Africa had never supplied the rebels with arms or trained any of its troops.

But the Mozambican government remains convinced the rebels are being supplied with military hardware from within South Africa, although they have not specifically accused the government.

Mr Correia said Renamo were so confident of victory that the organisation had already begun negotiating with Western European countries on possible joint economic ventures in Mozambique.