

Frelimo acknowledges error

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Mozambican president **Joaquim Chissano** said in a speech on May 7 that the unemployed city-dwellers who had been forced to leave their homes and work on the land in Niassa province in 1983 were now permitted to go back. He added, however, that the government would not pay for them to do so.

The launching of the so-called *Operation Production* resulted in the forced removal of thousands of people.

I.O.N.- This decision is well overdue, when the unpopularity of Operation Production is well-known, as well as the advantage which the Renamo rebel movement took of it to recruit guerrillas. It is too soon to know whether this decision will be accompanied by a rethink of the government's project, which is set down in the economic recovery plan, to pressure the numerous public employees who have been declared redundant into working family-run farms (see ION N 257).

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