

MOZAMBIQUE: RENAMO prepared for bilateral cease-fire

RENAMO's spokesman for Portugal and Europe, **Manuel Frank**, was back in Portugal after having visited Mozambique where he attended the first RENAMO congress (ION N°388) and Kenya (where he and other members of the organisation met with representatives of the Mozambican Church who are acting as mediators between the two opposed parties for the time being). He said on July 4 in Lisbon that RENAMO was prepared to accept "a bilateral cease-fire, but not a unilateral one." as President **Joaquim Chissano** had invited them to do last week. In so doing, Mozambique's leader was simply reiterating one of the main conditions stipulated by FRELIMO's politburo in March in a "non-paper" to open discussions with the rebel organisation over possibly modifying the country's political institutions (ION N°389).

RENAMO, Mr Frank added, would be prepared to enter direct talks with FRELIMO "without any pre-conditions" if the one ruling party in Mozambique also wishes it. RENAMO's spokesman also launched an "appeal from RENAMO to the 18 African Heads of State who participated in the Gbadolite summit" in Zaire (from which the Angola cease-fire ensued) to help RENAMO and FRELIMO resolve the conflict in Mozambique. According to Mr Frank, discussions with FRELIMO should aim towards a "national reconciliation, a national salvation government, a Constituent Assembly and general elections."

***I.O.N.**- FRELIMO's peace proposals would have been brought to RENAMO's notice in February by the Archbishop of Beira, Msgr Jaime Gonçalves, during a meeting in Kenya with "general" Raul Manuel Domingos (ION N°377) who was then Commander-in-Chief of the rebel forces and who became the new secretary of External Relations last month replacing Artur Janeira da Fonseca. RENAMO's current stance is to refuse both amnesty and the "existing order" two pre-conditions set by Maputo for talks to open. According to Manuel Frank, if the regime decides to uphold its demands than RENAMO will impose its "counter-demands", that is, prior withdrawal of all foreign forces, notably the Zimbabwean troops, and the sharing of governmental and regional responsibilities.*

The congress held in June was marked by the strong criticism of the majority of representatives from the organisation's external wing who were replaced by "military men". During the congress, RENAMO's president, Afonso Dhlakama, spoke in extremely harsh terms when referring to external leaders. "Disorganised", "bad reputation" and "inept" are some of the words he chose to describe them. RENAMO's new National Council, the supreme court, includes only one external leader out of the ten. He is Manuel Lisboa, based in Kenya.

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