

Talks reveal rebels' problems of logistics

S'scan

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MAPUTO/ The Mozambican talks process is inching forward amid serious difficulties in transporting leaders of the Mozambique National Resistance (MNR/Renamo) from combat zones to talks in Nairobi, *writes a correspondent.*

The 12-point "non-paper" quietly circulated by the Mozambican government to the Maputo embassies of security council members earlier this year (*SouthScan v4/26 p197*) was officially launched, at a presidential press conference in Maputo on 17 July.

When President Joaquim Chissano confirmed that representatives of 19 Mozambican churches were in Nairobi, for a meeting with "elements from the so-called Renamo."

The object of the meeting was to clarify Renamo's intentions and to create conditions for direct conversations between the Mozambican government and Renamo leaders, with a view to putting an end to the war.

The day after the press conference, the President's Office released a communique stating that the meeting between Renamo and the

religious leaders had originally been set for 12 June but had been postponed twice. The religious leaders arrived on 11 July, and "our delegation" on the 8th, said the communique.

But the Renamo representatives had not yet appeared. It seems there were serious logistical difficulties in moving the internal Renamo leaders out of their central Mozambican strongholds to Kenya.

A light plane was reported shot down in the area, and sources claim that the aircraft was sent by South Africa to fly Renamo chief Afonso Dhlakama to the talks. Dhlakama, however, was not on board. The downing of the plane was apparently an operation of the Mozambican army.