

RENAMO and Zimbabwe ION. 29/7/89

The event of the week was not the opening of the 5th FRELIMO Congress, but RENAMO's acceptance of Zimbabwe's participation (with a force of 10,000 men in Mozambique) in peace talks as a member of a group of African Heads of State. This decision, announced on July 25 came at the same time as the rebel organisation's agreement for Kenyan mediation. Thus the aborted meeting in Nairobi (ION N°392) between RENAMO chief, **Afonso Dhlakama** and the Mozambican bishops following an attack on RENAMO's headquarters in Gorongosa, has not compromised the peace process. Maputo's Archbishop, Mgr **Alexandre Santos** told *The Indian Ocean Newsletter* this week that President **Joachim Chissano** confirmed that the Gorongosa operation, on July 12, was due to the fact that the Army units in Sofala region had not been notified of the peace process, adding that FRELIMO's Central Committee had only been informed in the last few days.