

EX-COMBATANTS PROMISED NEW DEAL

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VETERANS of Mozambique's national liberation struggle should enjoy social and economic rights and privileges within the Mozambican society, Mozambican President Joaquim Chissano said here.

Addressing the opening of the constitutive conference of the Mozambican Veterans' Association, the president noted that since independence veterans of Mozambique's national liberation struggle have not received the kind of Government support and assistance they are entitled to.

He hoped that with the

founding of the association conditions will be created for the proper integration of the veterans into the Mozambican society. A survey and analysis of the nature and causes of the problems facing the veterans will be carried out to find solutions.

President Chissano says that the social, economic rights and privileges for the veterans will include social security, preferential credit facilities, priority in acquiring land titles, licences to develop other economic activities, and preferential admission to institutions for study or professional training.

He called on the veterans to continue playing their active role in the present phase of struggle of the country. "The fact that we have fought for freedom does not exempt us from the responsibility of fighting for better living conditions for ourselves and our families. There should be no moment in which our lives depend simply on rewards for what we did in the past," he said.

Since independence there have been many problems for

the veterans and their families. Pressure for remedies to be found has increased.

The constitutive conference of the veterans' association is scheduled to end on Wednesday, the 14th anniversary of the signing of the Lusaka accords in 1974 by the Portuguese government and Frelimo for Mozambique's independence.

Taking part in the conference are 371 delegates, including 321 former members of Frelimo's guerilla army during the liberation war, 42 of them political prisoners under the colonial regime. — Ziana-Xinhua.