

Mozambique Truce Accord Reached

By ALAN COWELL

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JOHANNESBURG, Oct. 3— Mozambique's Marxist Government and the insurgents seeking to overthrow it have agreed to a cease-fire that will be policed, according to accounts here, by South African troops.

No date has been set for the cessation of eight years of widening hostilities, and full details of the cease-fire accord have yet to emerge.

The agreement was announced in Pretoria today by Foreign Minister Roelof F. Botha of South Africa. He said in a statement that the main points of the accord were that President Samora M. Machel be acknowledged as the leader of Mozambique, that "armed activity and conflict within Mozambique" be brought to a halt and that "the South African Government is

requested to play a role in the implementation of the declaration."

Mr. Botha has been acting as intermediary between the two sides since the opening last week of negotiations that reportedly consumed 60 hours. The combatants have not met face to face.

Mozambicans Present

As he made the statement, Mr. Botha was flanked by representatives of the Mozambican Government and the rebel Mozambique National Resistance. He said their presence signified their assent to the agreement. The leader of the Resistance movement, Afonso Dhlakama, was not present.

Speaking to reporters, Mr. Botha was asked if South African troops would be sent to Mozambique to monitor the cease-fire. He replied affirmatively and said their role would be "to

see that no one breaks the cease-fire and to see that no one takes advantage of the cease-fire."

The cease-fire agreement follows a March 16 nonaggression treaty between South Africa and Mozambique, under which both countries agreed to withdraw their support for one another's political foes. Under the agreement, Mozambique expelled large numbers of members of the African National Congress, the most prominent of the groups of exiles committed to the armed overthrow of white minority rule in South Africa. Mozambique had previously been the Congress's main rear base.

War Appears to Escalate

Since the agreement was signed,

however, the Mozambique National Resistance, which has been supported in recent years by South Africa, has seemed to escalate its war against President Machel's Government. It says it has brought its campaign close to Maputo, the capital, and Mozambican officials have suggested that South Africa has not been adhering to its side of the agreement.

In recent days, Mozambique has intimated that it will cancel its nonaggression treaty with South Africa — a cornerstone of Pretoria's regional policy — if the resistance movement is not brought to heel.

Foreign Minister Botha said a cease-fire commission would be established to "work towards an early implementation of" the cease-fire declaration.

"The South African Government agrees to play a role in the implementation of this declaration and to participate in the work of this commission," he said.

The announcement seemed to represent an ambiguous success for Mozambique since it enshrines President Machel's ascendancy while acknowledging the growing influence of the anti-Machel guerrillas by permitting them equal status on a cease-fire commission on which South Africa will hold the chairmanship.

Mozambican officials indicated that the Mozambican tactic had been to threaten to cancel the nonaggression treaty that South Africa views as an emblem of a peaceable role in southern Africa.

Within hours of the announcement of the agreement, however, there were indications that both sides were still bat-

tling for political and military ascendancy before any formal commencement of a cease-fire. The official Mozambique press agency, which is often used as a signal of public policy, issued a commentary saying: "The basic factor in the struggle against banditry lies on the battlefield." "Banditry" is used by Mozambique as a code word for the Mozambique National Resistance.

"Now is the time to weaken the phenomenon of banditry on the battlefield," the commentary said.

Mozambican officials questioned the ability of those rebel figures who made the agreement to curb all of the insurgents acting in their name inside Mozambique. The sheer size of Mozambique and the inaccessibility of much of its terrain seem to present problems in spreading word of a cease-fire.

Moreover, Evo Fernandes, the resistance movement representative present at today's negotiations, told a news agency reporter in Lisbon by telephone tonight that the conflict would "continue and may escalate." He added that "there is only speculation about peace or a cease-fire but there is still no reality to it," and that "the war continues." Mr. Fernandes, who is usually based in the Portuguese capital, said the cease-fire had "only been reached in principle" and the resistance, while acknowledging President Machel's current ascendancy, had not abandoned political demands for "the democratization of Mozambique."

The Mozambique National Resistance was created by the white authorities who used to rule in Rhodesia, which is now Zimbabwe, after Mozam-

bique became independent of Portugal in 1975. Drawing on a pool of disaffected Mozambicans and right-wing Portuguese, the Rhodesian Security Police set up a training camp for the Resistance movement, hoping to use it to destabilize Mozambique, which was then the main rear base of guerrillas led by Robert Mugabe who were fighting white minority rule in Rhodesia.

South Africa assumed control of the movement in the months leading to Zimbabwe's independence in 1980, and used the rebels as a means of putting pressure on President Machel to withdraw his support for the military activities of the African National Congress. South African officials have drawn a distinction between the resistance movement in Mozambique and the rebel guerrillas led by Jonas Savimbi in Angola, whom they also support, saying Mr. Savimbi's movement has a greater legitimacy. Mozambique has offered an amnesty to resistance figures ready to surrender.

Some South African commentators suggested tonight that South Africa's motive in agreeing to monitor a cease-fire had wider implications. Last February, South Africa and Angola established what was called a "Joint Monitoring Commission" to oversee South Africa's withdrawal from southern Angola and to clear the area of anti-South African insurgents.

Should a peacekeeping role in Mozambique be seen to work, the commentators said, South Africa could make the argument that it — and not the United Nations — should monitor any settlement in South West Africa, the disputed territory also known as Namibia that South Africa rules in defiance of the world body.