

Mozambique Truce Plans, Appear to Be Flattering

PRETORIA — South Africa said Thursday that attempts to implement a cease-fire between Mozambique and its anti-Communist insurgents were continuing and had no comment on rebel threats to break off the negotiations.

Evo Fernandes, general secretary of the Mozambique National Resistance, earlier criticized Mozambican government statements that it would never negotiate with the rebels.

He said Thursday that there was no point resuming South African-mediated cease-fire talks until the government's attitude was clar-

fied.

Mr. Fernandes said from Paris in a telephone conversation with Reuters in Lisbon that the rebels had canceled a meeting of a joint peace commission that had been scheduled for Wednesday.

The government and the Mozambique National Resistance agreed this month "in principle" to stop fighting, and held three days of talks last week on how to implement a cease-fire.

Since then, however, President Samora Machel of Mozambique has warned that his country would never negotiate politically with

what he called "kidnappers, bandits and criminals," a reference to the resistance movement.

Last weekend, Jacinto Veloso, the chief Mozambican negotiator and economic affairs minister, was quoted by the Mozambican press agency, AIM, as saying that "military action continues to be the main priority in the struggle against armed bandits."

He said such action would continue while the talks lasted.

Mr. Fernandes, who attended previous meetings in Pretoria but who is traveling in Europe, said:

"Veloso's remarks and attitude are of major importance for the future of the talks, and until Frelimo gives us an explanation we will not return to the negotiations." Frelimo is the Mozambican ruling party.

The South African deputy foreign minister, Louis Nel, told United Press International that the "peace process is still continuing."

But he added: "In view of the extremely sensitive nature of this process, I prefer to not comment on any statements by members of the various parties or to give further details." (UPI, Reuters)