

Mozambique rebel leader says important victory imminent (Text) The President of the Renamo movement in Mozambique, Mr Afonso Dhlakama, says Renamo is on the point of scoring an important military victory in Mozambique. In the first interview he has granted in the past 11 years Mr Dhlakama told a major Portuguese radio station that his movement would talk to Frelimo on condition that all foreign troops were withdrawn from the country. He said that several thousand Ethiopian troops have arrived in Mozambique and Indian commanders would [be] expected to bolster the Frelimo government. Mr Dhlakama denied that Renamo was being supported by South Africa. He said that nothing had changed in Mozambique since the death of President Samora Machel. He added that President Chissano was not the moderate politician that many thought he was.

The Renamo leader said that the ultimate goal of his movement was to hold a general election and set up a multi-party democratic government. He said that after the imminent military victory, Renamo would allow a transitional period during which the population census would be conducted before the holding of a general election. Co-operation would be possible with the Frelimo government on condition that it guaranteed a cease-fire and accepted the principle of free elections. He said that Frelimo generals he had spoken to had said they were tired of the war and of fighting against their own people. He added that there were frequent clashes between Frelimo and their Zimbabwean allies. He accused a number of Western countries of helping Frelimo when it was Renamo which was in real need of help. (Johannesburg home service in English 0500 gmt 15 Dec 86)