

'Organise to defeat MNR'

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TETE (Mozambique).
MOZAMBICAN President Joaquim Chissano has stressed the need to organise local self-defence in the war against South African-sponsored MNR bandits.

Speaking in Tete in north-western Mozambique on Thursday, after a six-hour meeting with the Tete provincial government, Cde Chissano declared that, just as in the past, Mozambicans should defend themselves against aggression and invasion with all the resources at their disposal.

He stressed that the armed forces could not be expected to wage the war alone. "The army is

not everywhere," he pointed out, "but in every corner of our country we have the people who could be organised to block the advance of the bandits and to dislodge them.

"We must reoccupy all the districts," the president told the provincial government.

Tete is currently one of the provinces worst hit by South African-sponsored banditry. Large numbers of MNR bandits invaded from Malawi towards the end of 1986, and there is a strong bandit presence in the province, particularly in those districts north of the Zambezi.

Cde Chissano also dealt with the problem

of the hundreds of thousands of Mozambicans who had fled into neighbouring countries. An estimated 800 000 Tete residents were currently in Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

The president called for the urgent repatriation of the refugees, and urged the provincial government to set up ade-

quate conditions for receiving them and settling them in productive areas where they could restart their lives.

Mozambique's ambassadors in all three countries that border Tete province had now joined the presidential delegation to assist in the study of this problem. — Ziana-AIM.