

## Rebel push expected as Zimbabwean troops withdraw to Beira, Limpopo corridors

Zimbabwean army commanders fear that the Mozambique rebel movement Renamo plans to launch a major rainy-season offensive in the Gorongosa area.

They will take advantage of the withdrawal of over 1,000 Zimbabwean troops to the Limpopo and Beira corridors to move back into their former stronghold, according to local reports.

Zimbabwean officers quoted by the press agency Ziana said they were "cautiously optimistic" that the Rome ceasefire would end the 15-year civil war, but they predicted the rebels would try to recapture their former headquarters at Casa Banana in Gorongosa.

They said civilians in the area were already defecting to Renamo, fearing their resumed control.

The violation of the partial ceasefire agreement by Renamo last week came under fire on Tuesday by the Zimbabwe government.

There were attacks in the Beira and Limpopo corridors, less than a month after the rebels and the Mozambique government signed the partial ceasefire in Rome and just as Zimbabwe was completing redeploying its troops to the corridors.

Zimbabwe's acting Foreign Minister, Stephen Nkomo, deplored the violations as a clear indication that the reb-

els were not ready for peace.

Rebel units attacked the Limpopo line near Chokwe, in southern Mozambique. The second violation took place on Thursday along the Beira Corridor. Seven civilians were killed in the incident. At the same time civilians are reported massing along the Beira Corridor as war escalates in the Gorongosa area.

\*Late last month Renamo general Pasqual Jose, Brigadier General Jeronim Malageta and Major Ignacio Morgado arrived in Maputo from Rome for the first session of the international commission of observers. *[Staffwriters, agencies.]*