

## Renamo promises to cease attacks on Limpopo Corridor

In a note dated 14 October, Renamo leader Afonso Dhlakama promised that his forces would no longer attack the Limpopo Corridor, the strategic rail link between southern Zimbabwe and the port of Maputo.

This amounts to a pledge that Renamo will finally abide by the agreement that it signed with the government on 1 December 1990, under which both the Limpopo and the Beira Corridors were to be free from attack. In exchange for the redeployment of all Zimbabwean troops inside Mozambique to within the two corridors.

But Renamo repeatedly violated the agreement, and in

February announced its intention of resuming full scale attacks on the Limpopo line, using as justification a claim that Zimbabwean forces were still stationed in dozens of places outside the corridors.

However, the international Joint Verification Commission (JVC) monitoring the December 1990 agreement could find no evidence of any Zimbabwean presence when it investigated 18 of the places named by Renamo as harbouring Zimbabwean troops.

The JVC condemned Renamo's attacks on the Limpopo line, stressing that "deliberate violations of the agreement are considered by

the international community as a serious attempt to hinder the ongoing peace process as well as a demonstration of bad faith by the violating party".

The Italian ambassador in Mozambique, Manfredo di Camerana, who chairs the JVC, greeted the Renamo October promise with relief.

But there are signs that perhaps this latest Renamo promise should not be taken any more seriously than the earlier ones. On 31 October the Limpopo line was sabotaged yet again, and a goods train was derailed.