

## Mozambique woes

**I**T is almost a year since a Mozambique ceasefire agreement was signed in Rome between the ruling Frelimo and the Renamo guerrillas. Little progress has since been made. Indeed, the peace process appears to have slid backwards; talks have been postponed, the monitoring system has fallen by the way, rhetoric is strident and, ominously, the incidence of attacks is growing.

What makes the situation all the more tragic is that the time is so ripe for a new beginning for Mozambique. Frelimo has changed completely its hardline Marxist ways and shows commendable pragmatism and concern for democratic principles; new efforts are being made to bring the mighty Cahora Bassa project on-stream; and, in the rest of southern Africa, events such as the peaceful elections in Zambia and continued progress toward's peace in Angola are positive portents for development of the sub-continent.

Only in Mozambique does the picture remain dismal; it is estimated that more than two-thirds of the country's 16-million people are living in abject poverty and, to add to their woes, severe drought has drastically curtailed the 1991 harvest.

Renewed efforts are needed to bring the warring parties together — and soon.

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