

# 8.5 Moz army to go 'strictly defensive' 8/10 92

MAPUTO. — The Mozambican Defence Ministry has ordered all military units to adopt a strictly defensive position following the signing of a peace agreement in Rome between President Joaquim Chissano and Renamo leader Mr Afonso Dhlakama.

Immediately after Sunday's signing of the accord, Defence Minister General Alberto Chipande issued orders to the armed forces calling a halt to any offensive actions.

Strictly speaking, there is no ceasefire until the Mozambican parliament ratifies the agreement. The ratification is expected some time later this week.

However, General Chipande's statement announced that even in advance of the ceasefire taking effect the armed forces should not take the offensive "in order to express the commitment of the Mozambican government to achieving peace".

Mr Dhlakama declared in Rome, shortly after the signing, that he would give orders to his men to cease fighting within 24 hours.

Once the ceasefire has come into force, the troops of both sides are to gather at assembly points. A total of 15 000 men from each side will be chosen to form the new national armed forces, while the rest will be demobilised.

● The International Committee of

the Red Cross has begun a major relief operation in Mozambique to bring food and medical supplies to people in rural areas, the organisation's chief representative in Mozambique Mr Felice Dindo announced in Johannesburg yesterday.

● Organisation of African Unity secretary-general Mr Salim Ahmed Salim yesterday congratulated the Mozambican government and Renamo for signing the peace agreement.