

# Maputo unveils plan to end war

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**M**OZAMBIQUE has circulated a plan to end the war with the South can-backed rebels of the Mozambique National Resistance (MNR) to selected embassies in Maputo.

This document, which is at least six weeks old, has now been leaked by diplomats to journalists. The plan makes clear from the start the government's view that the conflict is "a destabilisation operation" and not "a war between two parties".

It insists that the rebels must first "stop all acts of terrorism and banditry". Then, a "dialogue" might begin that would be open to "all individuals, including those who up to now have been involved in violent destabilisation".

Implicitly, this dialogue would not be with the MNR as an organisation, but with those of its members who accepted the government's terms.

The government insists that it will not accept any alteration to the constitution by means of decree, but points out that a national debate is already under way on a series of constitutional amendments.

The most significant of these proposed changes would alter the way in which the President is elected. The President of the ruling Frelimo party is now automatically the head of state: the constitutional amendment proposes that the head of state be elected by the 11 elected provincial assemblies.

This change opens the way for a greater separation between party and state.

The constitution has been under debate for more than a year, and MNR members who abandon the war will have the same rights of discussion as any other Mozambican citizens.

There is already an amnesty for all rebels who surrender to the authorities, and a promise that they will be fully "reintegrated" into society.

The government document goes one step beyond this in speaking of "dialogue". But it never actually mentions the MNR by name, and government spokesmen have remained adamant that there can be no "political negotiations" with the rebels.

Last week, in one of the preparatory meetings for the forthcoming Frelimo party congress, a minority of delegates called for negotiations with the MNR.

The Security Minister and Frelimo politburo member, Mr Mariano Matsinhe, replied that there could be no such talks with the rebels, since they were merely instruments of South Africa.

At no point does the govern-

ment plan mention multi-party elections, which have always been a demand of the MNR. It lays the onus fully on the rebels to end violence and to respect "individual and collective liberties, human rights, and democratic rights".

It is not clear whether this document has been presented to the MNR. If so, this would have been through the Catholic church which has been maintaining quiet contacts with the rebels.