

## Talks with Mozambique rebels seem deadlocked

MAPUTO/

In the absence of hard information, speculation is rife about what is actually happening at the Nairobi talks between Mozambican church leaders and Mozambique National Resistance (MNR) chieftains, under the mediation of Presidents Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe and Daniel Arap Moi of Kenya.

In mid-October the Mozambican government sent an official delegation to Nairobi (*SouthScan* v4/39 p300).

MNR sources claim that the group was sent after its leader Afonso Dhlakama threatened to abandon the talks - but whatever the case, the initiative seems to have achieved little, *writes a correspondent*. Unconfirmed reports here say that President Joaquim Chissano's patience has run out, and that he is ready to make a public declaration that the talks are deadlocked; he has apparently not done so yet, in deference to requests from Arap Moi.

Chissano has probably gone as far as he can, with his promise that amnestied ex-bandits, as Frelimo continues to call MNR members, will be able to participate in the 1991 elections as individuals. This pledge was seemingly included in a new six-point position paper from the Mozambican government. Analysts believe that it is unlikely that Frelimo will accept MNR demands for a multi-party system, or will now go further than its existing policies of amnesty and reintegration.

It is believed in Maputo that MNR intransigence is being encouraged by the Kenyans, the South Africans, and possibly even some elements in the US intelligence apparatus.