

Presidents sign secret pact on Mozambique

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PRESIDENT Mugabe arrived home yesterday from Nairobi where he signed a secret agreement with President Daniel Arap Moi of Kenya on the steps the two will take to maintain the momentum of a programme to resolve the war in Mozambique.

President Mugabe and President Moi, co-mediators in a peace initiative launched by the Maputo government five months ago to end its 14-year-old conflict with the South African-sponsored MNR bandits, signed the agreement in Nairobi at the end of four hours of consultative talks to review the peace programme.

Progress

"The two Presidents reviewed progress made so far in their search for lasting peace in Mozambique and decided on the steps to be taken to maintain the momentum of the peace process," said a terse statement signed by the Kenyan Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Co-operation, Mr Robert Ouko.

The two-paragraph statement did not give a

hint of what these steps are, and both Zimbabwean and Kenyan officials were reluctant to talk about it.

Details

Without giving any details away, a senior Zimbabwe Government official said there is definite progress in the mediation efforts.

"Considerable progress is being made but I cannot tell you more than that at this stage," said the Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Cde Elleck Mashingaidze.

The highly secret talks of the two presidents and the general news blackout on their peace initiative is being interpreted by some diplomats as an indication that progress is being made and also a sign that the leaders do not want to upset the peace process by negotiating in public.

Reliable sources said bandit leader Afonso Dhlakama has been in Nairobi since last week but it is not known whether he met President Moi before the Kenyan leader's meeting yesterday with President Mugabe.

Mozambique's transport minister, Cde Armando Guebuza, accompa-

nied by three senior government officials, was also in Nairobi and came to Harare with President Mugabe's delegation yesterday.

President Mugabe, who was accompanied by the Minister of State for National Security and Acting Minister of Defence,

Cde Sydney Sekeramayi, and several senior Government officials, was met at Harare International Airport by Vice-President Muzenda, Cabinet ministers, diplomats and other dignitaries.

The President went to Kenya on Thursday. — Ziana.