

# Portugal urged to play rôle in Mozambican peace process

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THE Portuguese Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, Dr Jose Barossa, called on President Mugabe at his Munhumutapa office yesterday.

President Mugabe said he hoped Portugal would continue to play a positive rôle in trying to bring peace to the region, particularly in Mozambique.

He said that Zimbabwe, one of the mediators in the Mozambican peace initiative, would do its best to achieve peace in that country.

Dr Barossa arrived in Zimbabwe on Friday from Lusaka, where he attended the annual SADCC consultative meeting. He was leading an eight-man business delegation. On Sunday, he held discussions with the Senior Minister of Finance, Economic Planning and Development, Dr Bernard Chidzero.

The meeting with Dr Chidzero was to develop more ways of economic development between Zimbabwe and Portugal. Portugal will participate for the second time at the Zimbabwe International Trade Fair in May this year.

Discussions with President Mugabe yesterday centred on the situation in the Southern African region, particularly Angola, South Africa and Mozambique.

Dr Barossa said his government wanted to create conditions for dialogue in Angola. Recently the Unita leader, Dr Jonas Savimbi, was in Lisbon on a private visit and his government took the opportunity to talk to him about peace in Angola.

On prospects for peace in the two former Portuguese colonies, Dr Barossa said initially his government was very optimistic about an

early settlement through negotiations. It now felt there was some way to go.

The two governments and the MNR bandits in Mozambique and Unita in Angola did not agree on several points which made a breakthrough impossible at the moment.

There was, however, hope that a settlement through negotiations rather than military action could be achieved.

Dr Barossa said countries in the region had a leading rôle to play in finding solutions for peace in Angola and Mozambique. President Mugabe, together with Kenyan President Daniel arap Moi, are mediating in the Mozambican conflict while President Mobutu Sese Seko is one of the mediators in the Angolan conflict.

Dr Barossa left for Lisbon last night. — Herald Reporter-Ziana.