

Chissano wants direct peace talks with MNR

H. 315 MAPUTO. 90

PRESIDENT Joaquim Chissano told a May Day rally on Tuesday that his government "does not want to waste a minute" in establishing negotiations to end the country's 18-year bandit conflict.

Cde Chissano said a choice of venue was the main obstacle to starting a dialogue with the MNR bandits.

"We want a direct dialogue, without intermediaries, with representatives of MNR," Cde Chissano said. The government wants the meeting held under conditions "in which both parties can have full trust".

President Chissano said he was due to receive reports from government envoys sent on diplomatic missions to deal with the peace initiative and it was possible

further missions would be sent out.

Cde Chissano said the government had chosen neighbouring Malawi as the site for the first direct talks "because we thought it was convenient both for ourselves and for MNR". But the bandits have said they would prefer the talks to be held in Portugal.

● Unita leader Dr Jonas Savimbi proposed on Tuesday urgent peace talks with President Jose Eduardo dos Santos of Angola in Portugal or Cuba to end 15 years of civil war.

"President Jose Eduardo dos Santos should, in this grave hour afflicting the country, talk directly and urgently with Dr Savimbi in Portugal or Kinshasa," said a statement — Ziana-Reuters.

Original clip in poor condition