

Mandela urges end to Mozambique war

**By Esmaré van der Merwe,
Political Reporter**

MAPUTO — ANC deputy president Nealon Mandela urged the rival factions in Mozambique's 14-year war to reach a peaceful settlement before the end of the year.

Addressing a rally here yesterday, he said the ANC would like to return to Mozambique this year to celebrate the victory of peace.

The Frelimo government and the Renamo rebel movement recently held talks in Italy in the first attempt to settle the civil war which erupted shortly after independence in 1975. South Africa has been accused of supporting Renamo for many years — a contributing factor to strained relations between the two countries.

Settlement

Mr Mandela said a negotiated settlement in SA would assist Mozambique in settling its war.

"We have that responsibility and will do anything in our power to help end the destabilisation of Mozambique by anybody within our country."

The ANC leader addressed thousands of people at a joint rally with President Joaquim Chissano, who declared the

day a national holiday to enable citizens to listen to Mr Mandela.

Mr Mandela congratulated Frelimo on its victory over Portuguese colonialism in 1975 and apologised that he did not personally attend the celebrations.

Frelimo had been formed in 1962, the year he first went to jail. It had adopted the armed struggle in 1964, the year he and his fellow Rivonia trialists had been given life sentences.

He hailed Frelimo's decision to resort to violence as an historic act which had contributed much to the downfall of white minority domination on the continent.

● Government forces said here yesterday that the ANC and Frelimo had signed a formal agreement after talks at the party's headquarters on Sunday. But the leader of the Popular Assembly (parliament), Marcelino dos Santos, told The Star yesterday that no such agreement had been drawn up. "At least not yet," he said.

Mr Mandela and his wife, Winnie, arrived more than an hour late for a cultural gala in their honour last night. They will fly to Beira today and are expected to arrive at Jan Smuts tomorrow afternoon.