

# SA, Mozambique more trusting, says Chissano

Political Staff

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MAPUTO — Relations with South Africa have improved considerably in recent years, says Mozambican President Joaquim Chissano, and he expects them to get better.

"I think there is much more mutual confidence between us and the South African Government," he said yesterday.

Mr Chissano was addressing a news conference at the Presidency in Maputo after about 45 minutes of talks with Foreign Minister Pik Botha, who was visiting the port to open a duplex village housing South African officials in Maputo.

The main reason keeping the countries apart — apartheid — was falling away, he said. The South African Government had started dialogue with the African National Congress, lifted the state of emergency and was releasing political prisoners.

Turning to his government's on-off peace talks with Renamo, he said he

was confident they would soon resume in Rome.

When asked whether there was a role for South Africa in these peace efforts, he said: "South Africa has been doing what is appropriate for any outsider to do — which is to encourage both sides to get into talks."

Mr Botha had assured him that this was what Pretoria was doing. "I think that that is enough for the time being since we are already talking directly (with Renamo)," he added.

Mr Chissano said he and Mr Botha had discussed the continuing violence in their respective countries, searching for ways to expedite the peace processes so that the two countries could embark on a movement of co-operation.

On South Africa's efforts for peace in Mozambique, Mr Botha said the Government was co-operating as far as possible with Mr Chissano's government and other parties.

He refused to disclose details of any security measures discussed with Mr Chissano.