

# Mozambique peace in sight

ROME.

MOZAMBIQUE and MNR bandits have agreed to appoint mediators in peace talks aimed at ending the banditry which has cost over a million lives since independence from Portugal in 1975.

A source close to negotiations said the mediators were optimistic a ceasefire agreement could be worked out in two weeks. The media-

tors are the Catholic archbishop of Beira and three Italians.

The main stumbling blocks are the Zimbabwean soldiers stationed in Mozambique and the voice the bandits are demanding in how the country's first multi-party elections next year should be organised.

A previous round of talks in Rome in August broke down when bandits insisted on the withdrawal

of the Zimbabwean troops guarding Zimbabwe's lines of communications across Mozambique.

President Joaquim Chissano has said the bandits can take part in the elections if they lay down their weapons and operate as a normal political party.—Ziana-Reuters.