



**SPEECH BY ARMANDO EMÍLIO GUEBUZA, MINISTER OF TRANSPORT
AND COMMUNICATIONS, HEAD OF THE DELEGATION OF THE
REPUBLIC OF MOZAMBIQUE, AT THE SIGNING OF THE AGREEMENT**

Rome, 1 December 1990

Mediators

Raul Manuel Domingos, Head of the RENAMO delegation

Representatives of the Church

Dear Compatriots

Today, 1 December 1990, here in Santo Egídio, Rome, on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Mozambique and of RENAMO, we have just signed the first significant Agreement in the negotiating process we entered upon last July.

This Agreement only relates to the first point of our agenda.

This Agreement is only the first step in broaching questions of substance.

This Agreement relates only to the Zimbabwean troops that are in Mozambique by agreement with the Government, dealing with their presence and role in the period preceding the ceasefire.

It is a positive step to the extent that it represents the existence of a minimum understanding on one question.

We have taken a great deal of time and made enormous efforts in order for this first step to be made.

We recognise that this step is far below the expectations of our people and of the international community. For my delegation this partial Agreement is a long way from the General Ceasefire Agreement that was and is the objective of the negotiations and which we came prepared and mandated to discuss and sign.

Though a small step, a limited step and below expectations, we would like to register our wish that it really be the first step in a process that should now speed up with the discussion of the other points on the agenda, and that it will shortly be followed by the General Ceasefire Agreement that will end the war and bring peace to our country.

We do not want this to be an Agreement on how to continue the war. We want and are determined that it should be an Agreement on how to launch the de-escalation that will bring the war to an end.

We shall implement this Agreement and continue to analyse the remaining points on the agenda in this spirit.

At this time we would like to re-affirm our total confidence in and deepest thanks to the mediators for the vast and untiring efforts they have made to bring these negotiations to a positive conclusion. We are sure that in spite of the enormous difficulties they will continue to persevere until we can together reach the final objective: peace in Mozambique.

Finally we reiterate to our compatriots of RENAMO our firm determination, founded in the interests that unite all Mozambicans, to continue together on the road we have begun until the end of the war and the establishment of peace, a peace that will be the victory of the whole Mozambican people united from the Rovuma to Maputo, a peace that will be the victory of all Mozambican patriots scattered around the four corners of the world.

Thank you very much.

(Unofficial translation)