

# Maputo ceasefire plans <sup>15/12</sup><sub>90</sub>

## Herald Reporter

THE partial ceasefire in Mozambique will be monitored by a Joint Verification Commission made up of three representatives from the Mozambican government, the MNR bandits and from eight other countries including Zimbabwe.

The commissioners chosen will be from the United States, the Soviet Union, Britain, France, Portugal, Zambia, Kenya, Congo and Zimbabwe. They were all chosen by both Mozambique and the MNR bandits.

The commissioners will be sworn in on Tuesday next week in Rome, Italy, and will go to Maputo to assume their duties. This is part of what

was agreed on in Rome on December 1 when a partial ceasefire, which will lead to general cessation of hostilities, was signed.

According to the latest update of the Southern African Research and Documentation Centre, the bandits' stalling tactics in the peace process were based on a realistic assessment that because of their brutality, they could not hope to win power through the ballot box.

The update says once the Zimbabwean troops are confined to the Beira and Limpopo corridors, it was likely that the bandits would launch a rainy season offensive to try and regain control of the areas of the countryside

that had been lost to reorganised Mozambican and Zimbabwean forces.

It was also likely that due to the slow progress of negotiations, the elections planned for next year in Mozambique would be postponed. The Mozambican government had gone beyond the bandits' demands in revising the political system, but the group and its backers had refused to recognise these fundamental changes.

The update also noted that there was evidence that elements of the security forces and right-wing South African groups still maintain close contacts with the MNR bandits despite Pretoria's agreement to end its support.