

# Maputo ceasefire <sup>H.</sup> corps to take oath <sup>18/12</sup> <sub>90</sub>

## MAPUTO.

AN international commission charged with monitoring a partial ceasefire agreement in Mozambique will be sworn in today in Rome.

It was created under a December 1 accord between the government and the MNR bandits.

The agreement says Zimbabwean troops helping the government will be confined to the Beira and Limpopo transport corridors between landlocked Zimbabwe and Mozambique's Beira and Maputo ports.

In return, the bandits have pledged to stop attacks in the two corridors.

The task of the 11-nation Joint Verification Commission (JVC) is to see that the agreement is honoured.

Diplomats say the commission's biggest headaches will come from defining what the agreement actually means in practice.

The Rome agreement says truce applies to an area at least 3 km either side of each corridor, but a commission source said the JVC can suggest extensions.

Areas such as Mapai on the Limpopo River are outside the 3 km. Mapai is needed for water supplies for railway repair men working inside the corridor and its inclusion is one of many questions likely to be raised, the source said.

While the Limpopo Corridor involves only a railway, the Beira Corridor consists of a railway, a highway and an oil pipeline, which at one point are nearly 15 km apart.

The seriousness of the peace effort is evident in the inclusion in the JVC of representatives of four of the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council — the United States, the Soviet Union Britain and

France.

Others who will be sworn in today are three Maputo representatives, three from the bandits and delegates from Zimbabwe, Zambia, Italy, Portugal, Kenya and Congo.

The commission, composed of diplomats and military officers, will spend a few days in Rome before setting up headquarters in Maputo. Sub-commissions will be established in the Beira Corridor, in Beira city and the town of Chimoio, and in the Limpopo Corridor at Chokwe, the commission source said.

The bandit delegates will have diplomatic immunity.

"(The accord) is a positive step, to the extent that it is at least a minimum understanding on one issue," said transport minister Cde Armando Guebuza, leader of the Maputo delegation.

Full peace talks are due to resume in the second half of January. But the negotiators have gone to Rome for the JVC ceremony and Cde Guebuza said before leaving Maputo that an agenda-setting meeting should be held this week. — Ziana-  
Reuter.