

Maputo ceasefire ^{H 21} commission formed ^{12/90}

ROME.

NINE countries formed a committee on Wednesday to oversee a partial ceasefire in Mozambique.

After the committee was set up, representatives of the Mozambique government and the MNR bandits began political talks on ending the 15 years of banditry.

"This is the first step on a road toward a secure and definitive peace," said Mr Andrea Riccardi, an Italian mediator.

The Mozambican government and bandits signed an accord on December 1 aimed at removing the estimated 30 000 Zimbabwean troops from the conflict.

The monitoring committee formed on

Wednesday will oversee the grouping of the troops in two corridors in the Beira and Limpopo River areas, the areas bound by the ceasefire.

The committee will be based in Maputo and is expected to start meeting there shortly after Christmas. For the first time since the start of the conflict, bandit representatives, with diplomatic immunity, will be allowed in the capital.

In addition to the bandit delegates, the monitoring commission includes representatives of Mozambique, Zimbabwe, the Congo, France, Britain, Kenya, Portugal, the Soviet Union and the United States. — Ziana-AP.