Ceasefire monitoring commission members arrive in Maputo today

MAPUTO.

MOZAMBICAN President Joaquim Chissano confirmed on Saturday that members of the joint monitoring commission charged with supervising the partial agreement between the Mozambican government and the MNR bandits will begin arriving in Maputo today.

The agreement, signed in Rome on December 1, stipulates that the Zimbabwean forces in Mozambique would be confined to the two rail corridors linking Zimbabwe to the ports of Beira and Maputo, which the MNR bandits promised not to attack.

Cde Chissano was speaking when he received a present from a group of Mozambican children living in Swaziland.

He said that once in Maputo, members of the monitoring commission would be able to hear "the cries of children for

the end of the war".

He hoped that the three MNR members on the commission would arrive today, and would hear the children's call for peace. He noted that at least 300 000 children had already died because of the war (and United Nations statistics put the number much higher).

A further three million had been deeply affected by the war, and many would have their physical and intellectual growth stunted.

"We will do everything possible to minimise the effects of the war on children," pledged Cde Chissano.

He said the Mozambican government viewed the December 1 agreement as "the beginning of the road leading to the end of the war".

"We are now studying ways of putting this agreement into practice," he said. — Ziana-Pana.