

Joint commission on Mozambique partial ceasefire meets today

MAPUTO. — THE Joint Verification Commission set up to monitor a partial ceasefire in Mozambique meets today to consider reports from its military sub-committee on seven alleged violations of the agreement.

Four of the complaints have come from the Mozambican authorities, two from Zimbabwe and one from the MNR bandits.

Under the accord, signed in Rome, the bandits are bound not to attack the Beira and Limpopo corridors and the Zimbabwean forces in Mozambique are restricted to the two corridors.

A spokesman for the Italian embassy — Italy chairs the commission — gave no details about any of the incidents, but information is available on some.

The present commander of the Zimbabwean forces in the Beira Corridor, Colonel Clever Chiramba, has said that bandits blew up stretches of the Beira-Zimbabwe railway on Thursday and Friday last week.

The Mozambican government has mentioned an attack by bandits

against a village in Manica province within the Beira Corridor, and clash at Motaze in the Limpopo Corridor, both on Wednesday last week. In the Motaze attack, two of the bandits were killed, and two Mozambican soldiers injured.

It is not yet clear what incidents the other two Mozambican complaints refer to nor what the bandit complaint alleges.

Under the accord, the bandits have grounds for complaint only if the Zimbabwean forces stray outside the corridors. The accord places no restrictions on the activities of Mozambique's own armed forces, who are not even mentioned in the document.

The Zimbabweans, however, said that their redeployment to within

the corridors was complete by December 28, well before the deadline of January 5.

The verification's military sub-commission has visited the sites of the incidents, but has asked for more details from the parties concerned. The sub-commission met on Monday in Maputo. This meeting continued yesterday.

The commission is scheduled to meet today. The verification commission includes Mozambique, Zimbabwe, the bandits, the Italian and Catholic Church mediators, and eight countries chosen by the two sides in the conflict: the Soviet Union, the United States, France, Britain, Congo, Zambia, Kenya and Portugal. — Ziana-Pana-AIM.