

'Two ceasefires will be signed this year'

Political Correspondent

The American administration believes that ceasefires will be signed in Mozambique and Angola this year, ending protracted civil wars.

US Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Herman Cohen told this to journalists at a briefing in Cape Town.

About 80 percent of the negotiation work had been completed in five rounds of Portuguese-sponsored talks between the government

and Unita since last June. The remaining 20 percent were tackled at five-nation talks involving the US and USSR in Washington on December 13.

"As a result we were able to come up with a basic framework for a settlement," Mr Cohen said.

The thorny issue of what to do with two armies would be dealt with by disbanding both and establishing a new national army.