

## Possible military reunification

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The key military men in Mozambique spent several days in a meeting chaired by President **Joaquim Chissano**, beginning on February 11, and in the presence of the defence minister, general **Alberto Chipande**, commander-in-chief, general **Antonio Hama Thai**, head of the army's political division, general **Eduardo Nihia** as well as provincial commanders. This annual conference, where the military heads meet to discuss the forces' activity during the previous year was postponed once this year, about two weeks ago. The abolition of the "*comissariado politico*", the division in charge of political education within the armed forces, is expected to be discussed. According to information obtained by *The Indian Ocean Newsletter*, President Chissano is also supposed to share with his military leaders at the conference certain political questions the government intends to broach with the *Renamo* when negotiations recommence in Rome. The Mozambican President is in particular expected to present a demobilization plan which will affect 30,000 members of the regular troops, and 30,000 members of para-military forces and people's militias. Within the framework of this project, a national armed force integrating today's *Renamo* rebels will be formed, based at Dondo, 30 kilometres north of Beira, in the central province of Sofala, which is currently being rehabilitated. Switzerland has promised eight million dollars to finance the demobilization of these 60,000 men and other aid is expected from Scandinavian countries. The Mozambican army numbers 60,000 while the *Renamo* has a 20,000-strong force.