

# Maputo peacekeepers concerned by MNR move

MAPUTO.

PEACEKEEPERS monitoring a truce in Mozambique's 15-year civil war voiced concern yesterday after a spokesman for the MNR bandits said it would stop observing the ceasefire.

Portugal's Lusa news agency quoted Mr Joaquim Vaz, the spokesman in Nairobi for the MNR bandits, as saying they would resume attacks on Beira and Limpopo transport corridors covered by

the truce. H910222 interview.

"Such declarations create confusion, disappointment and concern," said Mr Manfredo Incisa di Camerana, the Italian chairman of an eight-nation joint verification committee set up to monitor the partial truce.

"We hope that the declaration has been made not by the real Renamo chiefs but by a Renamo representative not having the authorisation of his own chiefs," he said in an

British ambassador Ms Maeve Fort said: "I hope it's just sabre-rattling. It would be extremely foolish for Renamo to attack the corridors."

The bandits agreed in December to stop attacking the trade routes if 7 000 Zimbabwean soldiers helping the Mozambican army retreated to 6 km zones around each corridor and stopped fighting on the govern-

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Meanwhile, MNR bandits have ambushed two goods trains on the line from Maputo to South Africa, according to a report on Radio Mozambique.

In one attack on Monday, at Chanculo, 74 km north of Maputo, one railway worker was injured, and the locomotive was set on fire. However, the train was not derailed, and there was no significant damage to the track.

The second of Monday's ambushes took place at Tenga, near Matola Gare on the outskirts of Maputo. One person was injured, but the bandits did not succeed in derailing, or even stopping the train.

MNR bandits have murdered a Columbian Catholic priest in the northern Mozambican province of Niassa, Radio Mozambique reported yesterday.

The murder took place last Friday, when the priest, Fr Ariel Granada Serva, was travelling from his mission posting at Mecanhelas in the south of the province. — Ziana-Reuter-AIM.

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ment side in other areas.

Mr Vaz said on Wednesday that the bandits had decided to stop observing the truce because, he claimed, the Zimbabweans were not complying with the agreement. The bandits say the Zimbabweans are operating in 52 places outside the Beira and Limpopo corridors.

Mr Di Camerana said JVC military experts who had inspected eight of the 52 areas had found no evidence to support the claims.

"The conclusions of the commission are that in these sites no Zimbabwean troops are present and that they have been withdrawn," he said. The experts would visit the Limpopo Corridor next week to check the bandit claims, he added.

The commission concluded earlier that the bandits were "probably guilty" of six violations of the agreement.

However, at a meeting on February 5, the commission had recognised one technical violation of the accord by the Zimbabweans, the ambassador said. This was the presence of Zimbabwean forces at Chimoio airport.

The bandits have also threatened to continue attacking the power lines from the Cahora Bassa Dam on the Zambezi River to South Africa. Mr Vaz said the bandits would neither allow the rebuilding of the line to South Africa, nor the construction of a new line from Cahora Bassa to Zimbabwe.