M'file Reconstruction commission 3/9/ established

Mozambican President Joaquim Chissano announced on 19 February the establishment of a new commission charged with drawing up a plan for national reconstruction and the resettlement and rehabilitation of people affected by the war waged by the Renamo bandits.

The commission is headed by Prime Minister Mario Machungo, and includes the Ministers of Planning, Defence, Cooperation, Foreign Affairs, State Administration, Finance and Labour. Also sitting on the commission are the Secretary of State for Social Welfare and the President of the National Institute for Rural Development.

Whenever necessary, the commission will draw in other members of the government. The Prime Minister is to provide the secretariat for the commission.

The presidential decree establishing the commission stressed the need to resettle displaced people, and to repair infrastructures destroyed in the war. It said these were the necessary conditions for relaunching economic and social activities in warstricken zones.

The decree said these were tasks that went beyond the scope of Mozambique's Emergency Programme, which is essentially concerned with guaranteeing the survival and basic needs of the most seriously affected strata of the population.

In itself, the Emergency Programme could not create the material conditions for re-establishing a stable economic life for the victims of the war, the decree said. This would be the job of the new commission.