

Renamo attacks threaten to derail peace

By KARL MAIER: Maputo

THREE rebel attacks on Mozambique's Limpopo railway line in the past two weeks have threatened to dash the two-month-old mini-ceasefire on two key transport routes. But as yet there have been no attacks on the busy Beira corridor, which is heavily guarded by 3 500 Zimbabwean army troops. The Limpopo railway line is not really in use at this point and the rebels have sabotaged recent repair work.

In a desperate bid to patch up the limited ceasefire, and to keep Mozambique's peace negotiations on-track, the United States has sent an envoy to make direct contact with the Renamo rebels.

Although there have been only three small rebel actions on the Limpopo corridor, Renamo now threatens to break

the limited ceasefire.

"Any attack on the corridors now, any violation, would call into question the December agreement," said Manfredo di Camerana, the Italian Ambassador to Maputo and chairman of the eight-nation Joint Verification Committee established to monitor the agreement.

Renamo spokesmen, including Joaquim Vaz, personal secretary to rebel leader Afonso Dhlakama, have announced the rebels will attack the transport routes because Zimbabwe has allegedly broken the agreement by keeping troops beyond the restriction zone of three kilometres either side of the corridors.

Renamo presented the verification committee with a list of 50 places where Zimbabwean troops were alleg-

edly still operating outside the zone. The commission has investigated eight of the sites and found the claims to be false.

All sides agree, however, that the Zimbabwean troop presence at Chimoi airport, situated about 10km from the corridor limit, is a technical violation.

The dispute over the corridor agreement is especially frustrating for the international verification committee because all countries had been pleased with the success of the mini-ceasefire, which had been holding since January 9. US Assistant Secretary of State Herman Cohen dispatched his special assistant, Jeffrey Davidow, to Africa to try to convince Renamo leaders to respect the accord.

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