

# Mozambique peace talks delayed by Renamo

ROME. — Direct talks in Rome between the Mozambique Government and Right-wing rebels to end their country's civil war will probably not resume this week, sources close to negotiations said.

"It's probable that face-to-face talks will only begin next week," a spokesman for one of the mediators said.

Italy and Roman Catholic churchmen, acting as mediators, have been try-

ing to bring together delegations from the government and Renamo (Mozambique National Resistance) since they arrived for a seventh round of talks on Friday.

It has taken the two sides a year simply to agree on an agenda. But hopes of a breakthrough this time had risen after Renamo leader Afonso Dhlakama said he would come to Rome.

"Everything would

have been much easier if he had been here. We came to Rome with full negotiating powers. It is the other side that seems to be having problems," a member of the government team said.

Diplomatic sources said efforts to re-start the talks were blocked over Renamo's demands that a transitional government be set up to oversee the first democratic elections.

— Sapa-Reuter.

25 JUL 1988