

SouthScan (Br), 91 10 04

US complains that talks formula is missing

The US is concerned about lack of progress towards a peace settlement in Mozambique, Assistant Secretary of State for Africa Herman Cohen said in Lisbon on Monday.

"A formula is lacking to bring about serious negotiations, but we think the Mozambicans are moving towards finding a formula", he said.

The statement will raise speculation that Portugal has US backing to muscle in on the mediation efforts of the Italians (*SouthScan* v6/36 p303).

However, Cohen and Portuguese Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs Jose Manuel Durao Barroso said the US and Portugal still supported the Italian mediation effort.

Cohen said the Mozambican peace negotiations were at the same stage as the Angolan peace talks had been when they began in Portugal early last year, 13 months before a ceasefire agreement was signed.

[Staff writers]