

# Eighth round of Maputo talks (A) not yet started

H. 16/10/91 MAPUTO.

THERE have been no developments so far in the eighth round of peace negotiations between the Mozambican government and the MNR bandit delegations in Rome.

There was optimism on the part of the mediators and other interested parties in the weeks leading up to this round, including statements by the Americans and Portuguese that the mediators had devised a new formula for the talks.

However, when the eighth round of talks was to have started on Friday, after a break of three days, the two sides neither met at a conference nor appeared at the venue of the meetings at the Catholic community of Saint Egidio.

Instead, the mediators held separate talks with each of the delegations, at their respective hotels. The two delegations are expected to finally meet today.

Sources in Rome say that the bandits presented a new document to the eighth round, as a counter-proposal. The precise details of this document have not been divulged and there is also no word yet on the Mozambican government reaction to it.

It is known, however, that the bandits earlier put forward a position stating that the government's authority should be limited as much as possible during the period between a ceasefire and the general elections.

The bandits want a body appointed by the United Nations Security Council to govern Mozambique during this period. — Ziana-AIM.