

No rest until peace ① achieved — Chissano

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THE Mozambican government will not rest until it has brought about the "just and lasting peace that our people desire", President Joaquim Chissano said on Monday.

Opening a session of the Mozambican parliament, the assembly of the republic, Cde Chissano urged the MNR bandits to abandon the "delaying tactics" that had always characterised their approach to the negotiations and to treat the peace process as seriously as the government was doing.

In a brief overview of the eight rounds of talks held so far in Rome between the government and the MNR, Cde Chissano noted that the bandits had "systematically violated" the first agreement signed between the two sides, back in December 1990.

The agreement had confined Zimba-

bwean troops operating in Mozambique to the Limpopo and Beira Corridors, the strategic rail routes linking Zimbabwe to the Indian Ocean. In return the bandits had pledged to halt all operations against these two routes.

But despite this agreement, attacks against the corridors had continued.

MNR delaying tactics had held back the negotiations for most of 1991, and only on October 18 was another agreement signed. This concerned basic political principles, and in it the MNR pledged that, once a ceasefire was achieved, it would halt its violence and wage a political struggle within the framework of the existing laws and state institutions.

Cde Chissano said the peace talks would resume later this month, but gave no specific date. Originally December 10 was set for the start of the ninth round. — Ziana-Aim.