

# Ceasefire sought in Mozambique

Chron. 21/2/92



**ROME — The Mozambican government and its rebel foes will tackle within days the vital issue of a ceasefire in the country's 16-year civil war, mediators at the peace talks here said yesterday.**

"It's a matter of days, not weeks," said Mr Mario Rafaeli, a mediator appointed by the Italian government.

"Both sides have agreed to sign a protocol

on electoral law and that means they'll then start talking about the final issue — ceasefire," Mr Rafaeli told a news conference.

Mr Rafaeli said the government and the Mozambique National Resistance were very near to signing a protocol on a new electoral law which includes sensitive issues such as access to the media, freedom of the Press and freedom of movement.

He said the two sides

had decided to suspend discussion on a constitutional dispute that had stalled the latest round of negotiations, underway since July 1990. Italy and the Roman Catholic Church are mediating in the talks.

"Both sides will soon start discussing which countries should act as observers to the round on a ceasefire. I think this year can be, and must be, the year of peace in Mozambique," said another mediator, Catholic priest Matteo Zuppi.— Ziana-Rtr.