

EC wants quick end to Moz talks

ROME. — The European Community urged a speedy conclusion to the Mozambique peace talks as negotiations to end the 15-year-old civil war resumed in Rome yesterday.

The latest session of the talks that began here in July 1990 will be dedicated to military issues — the merging of government and rebel troops and the extension of a partial cease-fire to the entire country, the Italian

Foreign Ministry said.

The talks are being mediated by the Italian Government, a Rome-based Catholic charity and the Mozambique Catholic church, but representatives of France, Portugal, Britain, the United States and the United Nations will attend the new round as observers because of the importance of the issues on the table.

The south-east African nation has been at war

since 1977, two years after it gained independence from Portugal, with the Leftist government's troops pitted against Right-wing rebels. More than 600 000 people have died in the fighting, which has left some 1 million refugees.

European Community ambassadors in Rome met with the two delegations and urged them to reach agreement quickly, the Foreign Ministry said. -- Sapa-AP.

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