

# More hitches for Maputo talks

H. 23/6/92 ROME.

FURTHER delays have hit the Rome peace talks between the Mozambican government and the MNR delegation with an unexplained request from the bandits to delay for 24 hours a meeting originally scheduled for yesterday to discuss the functioning of the international Joint Verification Commission that is monitoring the partial ceasefire in the Beira and Limpopo rail corridors.

The MNR bandits had demanded the presence in Rome of the Italian ambassador to Maputo, Mr Manfredo di Camerana, who chairs the JVC.

Sources in the Italian government and Catholic Church mediating team had no idea why the MNR bandits had suddenly requested the postponement.

Present at this meeting should have been the heads of the two military

sub-delegations, the commander of the Mozambican army, Lt-General Tobias Dai, and MNR general, Herminio Morais, and representatives from the four countries, observing the talks — the United States, Britain, France and Portugal.

At the start of this round of talks on June 10, the head of the MNR delegation, Mr Raul Domingos, had claimed there were irregularities in the way the JVC was functioning, and that these should be discussed in Rome. As a result, Mr di Camerana was summoned to Rome and arrived in the Italian capital last week.

Meanwhile, Mozambican President Joaquim Chissano on Sunday warned the MNR bandits are still not prepared to sign a ceasefire in the talks with the government underway in Rome.

Speaking at a rally in a

Maputo suburb, as part of the commemorations of the 30th anniversary of the foundation of the ruling Frelimo party on June 25 1962, Cde Chissano stressed the government's flexibility in the talks.

He pointed out that MNR bandits had demanded the rewriting of the agenda both sides agreed upon in May 1991. — Ziana-Pana.