

Zimbabwe troops may withdraw

■PRESIDENT Robert Mugabe said on Wednesday he would consider withdrawing the contingent of around 7 000 Zimbabwean troops from Mozambique, once the Frelimo government and Renamo concluded a peace accord to end the 16-year civil war. Mugabe told army chiefs that the deployment of troops along the Beira and Limpopo routes to the sea was a "large drain on our national resources". Zimbabwe spends 70 percent of its annual defence budget on troops in Mozambique protecting its trade routes to the sea from attacks by Renamo.