

Renamo seeks role in new security service before ceasefire deadline

MAPUTO/ The issue of Mozambique's security service appears now to be the main stumbling block to a ceasefire, scheduled for October 1.

Renamo leader Afonso Dhlakama, on a visit to South Africa (where he met with President FW de Klerk but didn't succeed in meeting Nelson Mandela), said he was willing to compromise on the size of the army, but he insisted on the total abolition of the security service Sise. It should be immediately followed by the formation of a new security service before the elections, in which Renamo would have an equal influence to the government.

In the view of Western diplomats here, Dhlakama is using the issue to force President Joaquim Chissano into substantial concessions by the last week of September.

Counting on Chissano's fear for a loss of face, after coming home from Rome with the promise of a ceasefire,

Dhlakama would feel free to impose whatever conditions suited him to force far-reaching compromises.

South Africa has expressed its desire to play a direct part in the negotiating process after watching the growing influence of all major Western countries, lately reinforced by a Russian desire to take part in the process.

Foreign Minister Pik Botha is believed to have passed Dhlakama on to Mandela, who was engaged with the ANC national executive meeting last week. The ANC proposed Cyril Ramaphosa, but Dhlakama could not fit him in. *[Own correspondent]*