

Mozambique prepares for peace agreement

Deadlock appears to have been broken and the way cleared for the signing of a Mozambique peace agreement on October 1.

Last Friday the rebel force Renamo's leader, Afonso Dhlakama, met in Botswana with Mozambican president Joaquim Chissano. Chissano afterwards said they would sign a general peace agreement.

There now seems a general anticipation outside of Mozambique that peace will be reached - UN secretary general Boutros Boutros-Ghali said this week he expected soon to add Mozambique to the countries in which the organisation is taking an active role. Inside the country a certain cynicism reigns, however.

The meeting between Chissano and Dhlakama served to unblock the remaining deadlocked issues - the size of the unified army, and the form of the security service, Sise (State Information and Security Service). An impartial

commission is to be set up to oversee this body. Chissano also said a commission would be created to check on contraventions of the law by the police.

According to Chissano the two leaders agreed to a force of 30,000 for the combined army. The EC announced it will help in the reintegration of demobilised soldiers and in training after the ceasefire. It will also help in reintegrating the *deslocados*, displaced people. Meanwhile Chissano, reporting back on the Gaborone meeting, said that Renamo activity had subsided in some parts of the country while in other areas it had stepped up its activities. He said that orders had been sent to Frelimo troops not to take advantage of aid corridors to attack Renamo bases and that since the talks in Rome began they had been told they could only act in defence.

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