

Renamo will administer own zones

As the fine print of the peace deal between the Mozambican government and the rebel force Renamo was perused this week it became apparent that Renamo has secured sizeable concessions.

The accord signed last Sunday by Mozambican President Joaquim Chissano and Renamo leader Afonso Dhlakama consists of a general agreement and seven protocols, three of which were signed during earlier negotiations.

It turns out that under the terms of chapter three, Renamo gets administrative control of all the areas it controls.

The form of words is that the local administrations must use only citizens residing in those areas - who can be Renamo members.

A senior Renamo official, Jose Muchanga, quoted by the Angolan Unita radio, confirmed that the Mozambican government has agreed to let Renamo administer the areas it controls.

The relationship between the ministry in Maputo and these zones will be overseen by a national commission including officials from both sides.

The general accord, which comes into force immediately, includes a call for a full ceasefire, which, to have the force of law, must be ratified soon by the Mozambican parliament. As soon as this happens UN forces will be invited in to verify the ceasefire and electoral process.

With no sign of an immediate end to fighting the UN - already hard-pressed on many quarters - might need to put up a considerable contingent. UN secretary general Boutros Boutros-Ghali said the UN role would require more effort and more resources than in Angola. On the other hand it is likely that South Africa will have a role in the monitoring of the peace. Foreign Minister Pjk Botha hinted that the SA airforce would soon be involved, as it had been in the pre-election logistics in Angola.

Analysts in Mozambique say Renamo fears opening up the roads to its areas because as the food convoys go in people will come flowing out, and this will undercut its local administration and show it has no popular support.

One Western diplomat in Harare was quoted by agencies as saying: "Renamo has succeeded in not only getting the recognition it wanted, but it has managed to get concessions which clearly make the rebels victors this time round".

The agreement, signed in Rome, calls for the establishment of a new armed forces structure comprising some 30,000 men drawn equally from both sides.

And Zimbabwean troops guarding two strategic corridors between their landlocked country and Mozambique's ports must leave within a month.