

UN votes on Mozambican CT 12/12/92 peace force

UNITED NATIONS. — The UN Security Council is soon expected to authorise the deployment of an 8 000-strong UN peacekeeping force to Mozambique, diplomatic sources said.

A draft resolution being considered by the 15-member council would give the UN Operation in Mozambique a mandate until October 31 and could be approved by Monday, the diplomats said.

UN secretary-general Dr Boutros Boutros-Ghali on Thursday offered the council an estimated cost for UNOMOZ of some \$331 million (about R993m).

The UN effort in Mozambique would entail UN troops, police and civilian staff empowered to supervise the enforcement of the peace accords signed on October 4 in Rome by the Maputo government and Renamo.

UNOMOZ would oversee the disarming of Renamo and government forces, the formation of new armed forces, the relocation of some five million to six million refugees, the distribution of humanitarian aid throughout the country and the organization of national elections.

According to the Rome accords, the legislative and presidential elections have been scheduled for October 1993. Some 1 200 UN observers will supervise the polls.

The diplomatic sources said that Italian troops forming part of UNOMOZ would be among the first to be deployed in Mozambique.

Bangladesh and Uruguay are other countries that could contribute troops to the UN contingent, the sources added. — Sapa-AFP