

MNR reneges on Dhlakama's going to Maputo

H. 18/2/93 MAPUTO.

THE MNR has reneged on its promise to bring its leader, Mr Afonso Dhlakama, to Maputo as soon as possible, according to a report in yesterday's issue of the privately owned news sheet "Mediafax".

The Mozambican government had been led to believe that Mr Dhlakama would leave his bush headquarters in the central district of Maringue and come to Maputo by the end of 1992.

He did not do so, but when he met United Nations under-secretary-general for political affairs, Mr James Jonah, on January 12, he agreed that he should move to the capital as soon as he was satisfied with his accommodation and security conditions.

However, MNR general secretary Mr Vicente Ululu told Mediafax that the MNR thinks there is no urgency in Mr Dhlakama coming to Maputo. "It would in no way speed up the peace process," he claimed. "Dhlakama is not abroad, he is in Mozambique and he can be contacted at any time."

Mr Dhlakama "has to come, because Maputo is the country's capital, but it's not urgent", said Mr Ululu.

The United Nations special representative in Mozambique, Mr Aldo Ajello, does not agree. He told a Press conference last Friday that matters would be speeded up if Mr Dhlakama were in the capital rather than Maringue.

The MNR appears to be making the transfer of its leader deliberately difficult by rejecting the houses the government has so far offered him. Mr Ululu made it clear that the MNR wanted somewhere very large where Mr Dhlakama could accommodate all his staff.

"President Dhlakama does not work on his own," said Mr Ululu. "He has his bodyguards, his cooks and his servants."

"If there is no house like this, then at least they could find one with sufficient space in its backyard to put up some tents where president Dhlakama's assistants can sleep," said Mr Ululu. — Ziana-Pana.