

Mozambique says rebels violating ceasefire

Sun.
Gaz.
2/2/93

THE Mozambican authorities have notified the United Nations of a series of violations of the ceasefire by the Renamo rebels in the northern province of Nampula, according to the government's chief negotiator, Transport Minister Armando Guebuza.

Mr Guebuza, cited by Radio Mozambique yesterday said that since the start of the year, Renamo has seized the localities of Namaponda, Mboila and Namatoria, all in the coastal district of Angoche.

In Mboila, Renamo beat up three people so severely that two of them later died of their wounds. The rebels also raped a pregnant woman.

This upsurge of Renamo activity has left the district capital, Angoche, virtually surrounded, and there are fears that Renamo may be planning to attack the town. In mid-October, less than three weeks after signing the peace agreement with the government, Renamo stormed Angoche and held it for several days.

Meanwhile, Renamo units in the district of Marromeu, in the central Mozambique province of Sofala, are still refusing to co-operate with the local authorities in the removal of mines and in the distribution of food aid, according to yesterday's edition of *Noticias*.

Food aid is channelled to Marromeu by a US-based non-governmental organisation. The Hunger Foundation, which demands accurate lists of the people who are to receive hand-outs

of food.

Although this is perfectly normal practice, in order to ensure that aid is used correctly, Renamo has refused to co-operate. It has not provided any list of needy people in those parts of Marromeu under its control, despite repeated requests.

The Marromeu district administrator, Mr Joao Jone, told *Noticias* that Renamo has not replied to suggestions that members of Renamo and of the armed forces should work together in removing mines.

Contacts were made with Renamo in January, he said, but so far the local rebel commander had made no response.

He recalled occasions on which people had walked for about 50 km from Bauaze and Chupanga, two Renamo-held zones, to Marromeu town, only to find that no food was available. Food is normally airlifted to Marromeu, and the supply is irregular.

Contacted by *Noticias*, the Renamo Sofala provincial delegate, Mr Manuel Pereira, first said he knew nothing about the problem.

Then he said it was "not clear" whether the American NGO or Renamo itself should supply the food to those in need. He argued that the NGO should merely ask for an "estimate" of the number of people requiring food aid, send it there, and let Renamo's own administrators hand it out.