

UN halts arrival of military observers in Mozambique

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MAPUTO — The top United Nations official here has requested a temporary halt to the arrival of more UN military observers because they are not yet needed, the national news agency AIM reported yesterday.

The announcement by Mr

Aldo Ajello the chief United Nations representative, is the latest in a series of delays to the peace process in the country.

The Mozambican government and the right-wing Renamo rebels ended 16 years of fighting last October with a ceasefire accord, which also calls

for elections by the end of 1993.

The UN plans to send 7 500 peace-keeping troops to Mozambique during the transition to democracy. But because of the repeated delays, the polls will almost certainly have to be postponed.

Mr Ajello said the foreign observers were needed to supervise assembly points where government soldiers and rebel fighters are to gather.

But so far none of 49 proposed camps have opened and only 17 possible sites have been surveyed, according to AIM.

Mr Ajello said there was no real work for the foreign observers until the camps open. He gave no indication as to when the first camps will be opened.

He said he wanted the arrival of monitors halted until surveying of possible sites was complete.

"We are proceeding as fast as we can, given the circumstances we are working under," Mr Ajello told reporters in Maputo yesterday.

— Ziana-AP