

# Dhlakama in support of Zimbabwean troops presence

(X)  
Herald 11/3/93 Lead.

**MARINGUE.**  
**RENAMO leader Mr Afonso Dhlakama has no objection to Zimbabwean troops staying in Mozambique under United Nations command as a way of accelerating the deployment of the UN peace monitoring force.**

"I personally, as Afonso Dhlakama, have no objection to Zimbabwean troops being incorporated into the United Nations peace monitoring force," he told The Herald.

"This is a suggestion that could be negotiated. But I must be frank, this is something we have not discussed as Renamo."

Mr Dhlakama said there was no good reason why UN troops should not already have been deployed. "The longer they take to be deployed, the longer it will take for us to prepare for elections."

The peace accord was signed in Rome by President Joaquim Chissano and Mr Dhlakama more than five months ago. Since then, only a handful of monitors have arrived in Mozambique along with the advance units of just one of the expanded battalion units, that from Italy. There is still no timetable for the full deployment of the whole UN force.

Mr Dhlakama reaffirmed his commitment to the peace process in Mozambique. However, he said President Chissano had to abide by the conditions of the Rome peace accord.

Explaining the MNR withdrawal from the discussions in Maputo, he said this was aimed only at putting pressure on the government to do what it promised to do under the accord.

He appeared rankled during the Press conference over questions comparing Mozambique and Angola and re-

**THE president of Renamo, Mr Afonso Dhlakama, yesterday held a Press conference at his bush headquarters in Maringue in Sofala Province and later gave an exclusive interview to The Herald. Zimbabwe Newspaper Editor-in-Chief Tommy Sithole sent this dispatch by satellite phone from the bush last night.**

torted to one query: "That is a silly question. I am not (Unita leader Dr Jonas) Savimbi, President Chissano is not (President Eduardo) dos Santos, and Mozambique is not Angola."

When talking to The Herald in passionate Shona after the Press conference, he made a direct appeal to President Mugabe to intervene to bring pressure to bear on President Chissano to stick to the accord.

He said he had already spoken to President Mugabe about the delay in the arrival of the UN troops and the question of accommodation for himself and his officials in Maputo.

"These two things have not happened and we are forced to spend a lot of time waiting and waiting for peace."

Expanding on the accommodation issue, he said: "I am the leader of the opposition and I cannot understand how President Chissano cannot find us adequate accommodation in Maputo where all the houses belong to the government."

There had been a lot of stories, he said, about Renamo turning down offered accommodation in Maputo but there was no truth in them. In some cases the accommodation offered was far from adequate, he said.

Asked whether the provision of accommodation for MNR would not set a precedent for other opposition parties, now springing up in Mozambique, the Renamo leader said: "We agreed in Rome with Frelimo and shook hands on it. All that Renamo is asking is that Frelimo abides by the letter and spirit of the agreement."

Mr Dhlakama was also keen on speeding aid into areas controlled by Renamo. He appealed to donor agencies to provide food, clothing and medicines to people in these areas.

"There is no truth," he said, "that we insisted that only the Red Cross could operate in these areas. Any agency or NGO is welcome to provide for the needy people in these areas."

He accused the ruling party of using aid for political purposes and said only people in those areas supporting Frelimo were given help.

In his appeal to President Mugabe and Zimbabweans, he said: "We have killed each other enough and we cannot go on like that." He also appealed to the Zimbabwean media to stop calling his forces bandits because "we are the opposition party in Mozambique now". (The Herald stopped using the term during the peace talks.)