

Chissano willing to meet Dhlakama

MAPUTO — Mozambican President Joaquim Chissano is willing to meet with Renamo leader Afonso Dhlakama, but has suggested that such a meeting should be held in Maputo.

Last Wednesday, at a Press conference held in the Renamo headquarters in the central district of Maringue, Mr Dhlakama said he wanted to meet with the president to discuss the problems facing the pacification process.

On his return on Saturday afternoon from Mauritius, where he attended that country's celebrations of its 25th anniversary of independence, Mr Chissano told reporters that he was perfectly willing to meet with Mr Dhlakama, but that he had received no formal proposal from Renamo for such an encounter.

Since they signed the October 4 peace agreement in Rome ending the war between the government and Renamo, the two men have only met once, in Zimbabwe in December.

Mr Chissano thought it was time for a meeting to be held on Mozambican soil. "It wouldn't cost him (Dhlakama) anything to come to Maputo for a meeting," said the president. "If his problem is that he doesn't have a house to stay overnight, then he can return to Maringue on the same day."

He said he had not yet considered what his response would be if Renamo demanded that the meeting take place in a foreign country.

Meanwhile, Renamo rebels have violated the Mozambican ceasefire again by seizing three villages in a remote part of the northern province of Cabo Delgado.

According to a report on Radio Mozambique yesterday, Renamo occupied the villages of Pambara, Potomola and Napito, in the district of Namuno, on February 22.

— Ziana-AIM-Pana

Daily Gazette 15/3/93