

Withdrawal of troops from Mozambique set for tomorrow

Herald
14/4/93

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ZIMBABWEAN troops guarding the Limpopo and Beira corridors come home tomorrow for a welcome in victory parades in Mutare and Chiredzi instead of today.

The Minister of Defence, Cde Moven Mahachi, in a statement yesterday, announced the one-day postponement and said arrangements to welcome the troops remained the same except that the Commander-In-Chief of the defence forces, President Mugabe, will no longer go to Chimoio to meet the troops.

Instead he will meet the troops who were guarding the Beira Corridor at Meikles Square in Mutare. Before addressing them he will inspect a guard of honour to be mounted by 3 Brigade. Mutare residents are expected to turn out in their thousands to give the troops a

hearty welcome. Vice-President Muzenda will welcome the troops from the Limpopo Corridor at Chiredzi Showgrounds.

Host

Celebrations are expected to start today in Chimoio where Mozambican President Joaquim Chissano will be the host. Zimbabwe will be represented by Cde Mahachi, Minister of State for National Security Cde Sydney Sekeramayi, and the Minister of Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs, Cde Emmerson Mnangagwa.

In Chimoio, Cde Chissano will address troops from both countries at a victory parade to be mounted on Avenue de 25 Septembre, adjacent to Independence Park.

The withdrawal was initially scheduled to be completed by November 15 last year as was dictated

by the October 4 Rome Peace Accord between the Mozambican government and Renamo. It was, however, indefinitely suspended at the request of the United Nations.

Between November 15 and last week Zimbabwe had said that it would not pull out until a full contingent of United Nations peacekeeping forces were in position. The peacekeepers from Botswana, Japan, Italy, Zambia and Bangladesh have now taken positions in Mozambique.

Closed

Meanwhile, Ziana reports that several streets were temporarily closed in Mutare yesterday as 3 Brigade went through the dress rehearsals in preparation for the return of Zimbabwean troops.