



□ **MEETING:** President Chissano.

Chissano to meet Renamo leader

MAPUTO. — The US State Department's top Africa official expressed optimism yesterday over Mozambique's peace process.

Mr George Moose, assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs, met President Joaquim Chissano and Mr Afonso Dhlakama, leader of the former rebel Renamo movement, in separate meetings.

Subjects discussed included progress towards Mozambique's first multiparty elections which are expected to be held in October next year.

"I came away encouraged by the determination of both sides to respect the date," Mr Moose said before leaving for a visit to South Africa.

He said Mr Dhlakama had confirmed to him, during their meeting on Thursday at the Renamo chief's bush headquarters at Maringue, that he would travel to Maputo on July 17 to meet President Chissano.

It would be Mr Dhlakama's first visit to Maputo since he and President Chissano signed a peace agreement in Rome last October.

In contrast to his upbeat comment on Mozambique, Mr Moose was gloomy over the situation in Nigeria because of that government's decision to annul the elections.

Mr Moose said his visit to South Africa would help to prepare for next week's visit to Washington by President De Klerk and African National Congress leader Mr Nelson Mandela. — Sapa-Reuter.