

Summit delayed as Renamo hardens its demand for control of separate region

Despite UN demands that there be no further delays to the peace process in Mozambique, new differences emerged this week between the ruling party Frelimo and the former rebel group Renamo. The immediate result was to delay the scheduled summit meeting between President Joaquim Chissano and rebel leader Afonso Dhlakama.

The UN Security Council earlier voiced dismay at the delays, emphasising that elections would have to take place in October 1994 and not be postponed again. UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali blamed both sides but made clear Renamo was being the more intransigent.

The US ambassador to the UN, Madeleine Albright, has already made it clear that the US would find it very difficult to provide any financial support for Mozambique's first multi-party general elections if these are delayed beyond October 1994.

Dhlakama said last month he would meet Chissano in Maputo on July 17, a guarantee he also gave to US Africa envoy Richard Moose - but last weekend he unilaterally cancelled the meeting. Renamo secretary-general Vicente Ululu said the Chissano-Dhlakama meeting had been called off because "careful preparation" was needed, but it could still take place before the end of the month.

The new point of difference is Renamo's demand for two administrations in Mozambique, for which a loophole was left in the peace agreement when Renamo officials were permitted to retain their positions in Renamo-held areas, though under government auspices (*SouthScan* v7/38 p289). Renamo now argues that the peace deal means that two separate administrations exist in the country until elections.

Demobilisation has not yet started, though around half of the demobilisation centres have been identified - 28 out of 49. While Renamo still has weapons in its hands it is keen to press its

advantage. It has not been specific in its demands, but analysts say it is likely to want control of the provinces where it is strongest, Tete, Manhica, Sofala and Zambezia.

Frelimo officials are also seeing fresh indications of divisions between the 'civilian' leaders in Renamo, now based in Maputo, and its military commanders in the bush, with Dhlakama uneasily trying to straddle the two.

The demand for Renamo governors was at first a surprise to Ululu, who learned about it first in the Mozambican daily *Noticias*. He noted that Renamo's position had been that the organisation could not form a transitional government with the Frelimo, because there are peace commissions in place to establish direct contacts with the government.

Spy claims

Other issues have sullied the political atmosphere. Renamo also now claims that the member of parliament, Aurelio Manhica, abducted late last month, is a spy and is continuing to hold him with the 25 people abducted by Renamo in the far south of the country.

All are under detention at a rebel base near the town of Salamanga, about 60 km from Maputo.

Last weekend, too, the family of the former Renamo member, Tiago Salgado, claimed in Maputo that Salgado had been shot by firing squad and demanded an explanation from Ululu, who later claimed Salgado was a Frelimo spy and was shot trying to escape.

Meanwhile in a bid to keep the process on course the government has agreed to subsidise from the state budget all political parties, excluding Frelimo and Renamo, which is expected to benefit from a UN trust fund that will eventually contain \$10 million.

The UN World Food Programme (WFP) said on Tuesday it would provide Mozambicans with food aid worth \$8.3 million over the next nine months.