

Mozambique observers seek emergency truce meeting

Daily News (G.S.) 4/6/93

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MAPUTO-Six Western observers on Mozambique's peace commission have demanded an emergency meeting to discuss the latest allegations of ceasefire violations.

Britain, the United States, France, Germany, Italy and Portugal, plus the Organisation of African Unity (OAU), issued a joint statement on Monday night calling for a meeting of the Ceasefire Supervision and Monitoring Commission. (CSC).

They expressed alarm at a recent statement claiming a "unilateral right to attack areas believed to be improperly occupied."

Though the statement mentioned neither

opposition RENAMO movement by name, it appeared aimed at a comment by a government spokesman that troops were used to evict RENAMO from three areas of the northwestern province of Tete in July.

The government said RENAMO, the Mozambican National Resistance, had illegally occupied the area in violation of last October's peace agreement which prohibits moves into new positions by either side.

The observers declared: "We wish to state unequivocally that no right to use military force exists for either side under the terms of the agreement."

They said all dis-

putes should be settled through mechanisms and procedures outlined in the agreement.

"We deplore any unilateral action taken to occupy or reoccupy areas militarily," they said.

The UN Special Representative in Mozambique, Mr Aldo Ajello, strongly condemned the government position at a news briefing on Friday.

He said the justification for retaliatory violations of the ceasefire was "a dangerous principle," which could lead to a renewed general confrontation between government and RENAMO forces.

The statement by the Western observers and the OAU expressed

full support of Mr Ajello's stand.

Ceasefire violations should be dealt with in the first instance by one of the subsidiary bodies of the CSC, the Ceasefire Commission (CCF).

The CCF did not touch on the Tete incidents at its last meeting last Friday because the investigating team sent to the areas had not returned to Maputo.

But it did find RENAMO guilty of "serious violations" of the accord by detaining 25 people at a military base in Salamanga, south of Maputo, which it said RENAMO had occupied after the signing of the peace agreement.

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