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Mozambique leaders get down to nitty-gritty today

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MAPUTO. — President Joaquim Chissano and Renamo leader Afonso Dhlakama began a second round of talks here today, optimistic after their first meeting yesterday about resolving the differences holding up the Mozambican peace process.

Mr Dhlakama said he was sure the talks would result in agreement, even though yesterday's meeting had seen little progress.

He said Renamo was willing to drop its demand for dual administration — the issue holding up demobilisation of the rival armed forces in preparation for an election.

Renamo was willing to allow the areas under its control to be administered by Frelimo. This apparently means Renamo has dropped its demand to appoint some of the 11 provincial governors.

President Chissano said that in demanding dual administration, Renamo had actually only wanted to secure guarantees of impartiality from the government, the police and the news media.

On the first day of their talks the two leaders set out the issues they would like to see resolved. Today they are to get down to the question of how.

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