

Chissano, Dhlakama happy after first personal meeting

Herald
25 August 1993

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PRESIDENT Joaquim Chissano and Renamo leader Mr Afonso Dhlakama met for the first time on Mozambican soil on Monday and said afterwards they were pleased with progress towards peace.

Both leaders told a news conference at the end of the session that they were "very happy" and understanding was possible on many contentious issues.

Cde Chissano, whose government signed a peace pact last October with Renamo said the Renamo leader had pressed him to ensure the impartiality of the government, the police and the media ahead of

multi-party elections due late next year.

Referring to Renamo demands that it be allowed to appoint five of the country's 11 provincial governors, Cde Chissano said: "If we don't all share the same approach, then we can change governors every day and we won't reach a solution."

The two men said they had yet to discuss the most explosive issue — demobilisation of their armed forces. The process was supposed to have been complete by last April but has yet to begin. — Ziana-Reuters.