

# Chissano turns South down 1-5/10 1993 Renamo

MOZAMBIQUE'S president Joachim Chissano has rejected an offer made by the Mozambique National Resistance Movement (Renamo) to hold elections before the establishment of a single, joint national army.

While Chissano welcomed Renamo's claim that it wants elections in October 1994, he warned that elections before the establishment of such an army would violate the peace accord signed by the government and Renamo last year.

"Their offer follows from Renamo's statement that they don't want to assemble their troops for demobilisation," Chissano said.

He further warned that some positions taken by Renamo resembled the behaviour of Angola's Unita rebel movement, which plunged the south western African nation back into civil war after elections meant to cement a peace process.

The United Nations' Security Council has demanded that Mozambique hold elections in October next year.

Italy's envoy in Mozambique has blamed the United Nations for pushing Renamo to propose elections before it and the government troops demobilised.

Mr Manfredi Di Camerana, the Italian ambassador, said the offer was probably a response to UN pressure to have elections held no later than October 1994 and warned that it was a dangerous proposition.

Di Camerana, whose country brokered the peace pact last October, criticised the "current mediators" of Mozambique's peace process for failing to build trust between the two opposing parties.