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Chissano warns against continuing hindrance of peace process by Renamo

Mozambican President Joachim Chissano this week warned the UN general assembly that the opposition Renamo front could delay implementation of vital parts of the 1992 peace accords.

Chissano praised the UN for having brought both sides together to put in place a ceasefire that has lasted for almost a year, but, he said "the other face of the situation in the country is a source of serious concern."

He said Renamo was offering a variety of pretexts to prevent a furthering of the peace process and was displaying reluctance to proceed toward 1994 multi-party elections.

"Right from the start, there was the delay by Renamo in sending its personnel to fill its positions in the Commissions for the implementation of the General Peace Agreement" that had been signed in Rome last October 4, he said.

The UN Security Council last week deplored the various delays in implementing the peace accords, particularly Renamo's refusal to dispatch its fighters to Nyanga, Zimbabwe, to undergo military retraining. The Council authorised the delay of elections until October 1994.

But Chissano said the process would drag even more because of Renamo's continuing objections to the plans it signed, including setting up a National Electoral Commission to ensure the ballot's fairness.

- Chissano said Mozambique's gross national product will grow by 4% this year. Exports and investment opportunities have increased as the threat of war recedes, he noted.

- Renamo leader Afonso Dhlakama visited Botswana this week to brief local government leaders on his earlier talks with Chissano.