

Mozambique Warned To Clean Up Act Or Face UN Withdrawal

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UN SECRETARY-General, Boutros Boutros-Ghali has warned Mozambicans that the United Nations might pull out peacekeeping forces if the government and the opposition movement, Renamo, did not settle their differences.

"Without the political will of the two protagonists in the dispute, we will not be able to find a peaceful solution," Boutros-Ghali told a news conference after a meeting with Alfonso Dhlakama, leader of the former rebel movement.

"We cannot impose peace. The new danger now is that if there is no political will to solve the problem...the United Nations will just withdraw," he said.

Boutros-Ghali met President Joaquim Chissano and government ministers earlier, on Monday, and said he wanted to accelerate the peace process in Mozambique.

"I will do all I can to promote

peace and development in Mozambique," he said.

Chissano, who signed a peace agreement with Dhlakama a year ago, said he was looking for real peace so that "development of the country can start on the right footing."

"We discussed the importance of the peace process and how to give a new momentum to this peace process, because we need this new momentum if we want to obtain from the international community the financial assistance to continue, to proceed with the reconstruction of the country," he said.

He said he had given the same message to Dhlakama.

Hinting at a less successful meeting, he described the Dhlakama meeting as "quite positive", but gave no further details.

UN officials said Boutros-Ghali was trying to remove two important obstacles to full implementation of the year-old peace agreement, which is intended to lead to

the country's first multi-party elections in October next year.

One stumbling block is the delay in demobilising government and Renamo troops.

Another is the failure, so far, to agree on an electoral law.

Since arriving in Maputo on Sunday, Boutros-Ghali has also been discussing South Africa, Angola and Somalia with visiting UN officials.

The UN chief said one such meeting was with his special representative in South Africa, Angela King, to discuss the evolution of the political situation there.

"It was an occasion for me to congratulate both (ANC leader) Nelson Mandela and President F.W. de Klerk for the Nobel prize will encourage the two leaders to overcome the last difficulties and that a society based on multi-party democracy and the eradication of apartheid will exist soon in South Africa," he said. *Nampal Reuter*