

Mozambique's assembly points declared open

Daily Gazette 931202

MAPUTO — Mozambican government troops and the Renamo rebel movement prepared yesterday to head for United Nations assembly points under an eleventh-hour pact in the stalled peace process that began last year.

The agreement by the two sides late on Tuesday to open 20 assembly points could be a turning point for the country's peace process.

If both sides abide by the agreement, it would indeed amount to what the UN special representative to Mozambique, Mr Aldo Ajello, was quick to hail as "an irreversible step".

Government minister and negotia-

tor Armando Guebuza called it a "fundamental moment in the pacification of our country".

Mr Ajello says it will take about a week to know for certain whether the government and Renamo are moving troops into the assembly points located in every province of this vast country.

Meanwhile, the United Nations has revealed its master plan for dealing with tens of thousands of demobilised Mozambican soldiers which is expected to cost about US\$60 million.

— Ziana-Reuter-AFP