

# leader in Mozambique

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HARARE. — African leaders should be nice to former Mozambican rebel leader Afonso Dhlakama to dissuade him from going back to war, say the presidents of Mozambique and Zimbabwe.

Mr Dhlakama has been shunned by many regional leaders since a peace pact in 1992 ended the 16-year civil war between his Renamo rebels and the Mozambique government.

A Mozambican official said today that Zimbabwean president Robert Mugabe and his Mozambican counterpart Joaquim Chissano had agreed African leaders should put aside their hostility to Mr Dhlakama.

"Both presidents agree that charming Dhlakama by warming up to him in traditional African diplomacy is one way of consolidating the peace process," the official said.

"The reasoning now is that the region can only have a positive influence on Dhlakama if there is some contact with him, and these contacts must be encouraged since Renamo has renounced violence," he said.

Another official pointed to the example of Angola.

Southern African leaders have had no influence on Unita rebel leader Jonas Savimbi because they had failed to "cultivate" him when the Angolan war stopped briefly, he said. — Sapa-Reuter.