

The government of Mozambique and the rebels of the MNR have agreed to end their conflict and work for peace after several rounds of intense talks with SA officials, Pik Botha announced yesterday. SA soldiers will underwrite the agreement by monitoring the projected ceasefire in Mozambique, Mr Botha said after he had released a communique. The formal declaration was released in Pretoria in the presence of top delegates of both parties, with Mr Botha noting: 'Their presence here signifies their assent thereto'.

Peace negotiations between the two parties will be conducted on the basis for a four point plan: Recognition of President Machel as Mozambique's Head of State; Cessation of all armed activity; a request for SA involvement in implementation of the declaration; and the establishment of a joint commission to work for application of the settlement. Mr Botha said in the statement: 'The SA government agrees to play a role in the implementation of this declaration and to participate in the work of the commission' ... The four point plan did not manifestly favour either side, as recognition of President Machel's position did not in itself eliminate the possibility of inclusion of some rebels in a government of national reconciliation, observers said. PW Botha described the settlement as important for the whole of Southern Africa.

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