

# UK ties Maputo aid to IMF deal

H: 3 MAY 1987

LONDON.

THE British government has promised a further US\$24 million assistance to Mozambican balance of payments.

British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher made the pledge at a dinner in honour of Mozambican President Joaquim Chissano this week.

The money, she said, was "to help you meet Mozambique's essential needs for imports", but it would only be released "as soon as you have reached agreement with the International Monetary Fund".

Mozambique has engaged in lengthy negotiations with the IMF, and last month finance ministry sources said that agreement had been reached with the fund, on the basis of Mozambique's own economic recovery programme, but had not yet been formalised.

Mrs Thatcher praised the "courageous approach" shown by the Mozambican government in the recovery programme, which she added, "will encourage others to help you".

The new pledge from Britain is in addition to some US\$18 million already promised this year for food aid and disaster relief, and to the British contribution to the European Economic Community's assistance to Mozambique. — Ziana-AIM.