

# UK ready to give Mozambique more military assistance

BY MICHAEL HOLMAN, AFRICA EDITOR

BRITAIN is "ready to respond" to Mozambique's request for additional military assistance, President Joaquim Chissano, said yesterday.

It would not include the supply of arms, the President told a Press conference in London yesterday, but would most likely take the form of logistical support and increased training facilities. Britain is already running a programme in Zimbabwe for Mozambican officers and NCO's which this year is expected to train more than 400 men.

The president, who held talks on Wednesday with Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister, was expected to discuss the details of possible British assistance at a meeting yesterday with Mr John Stanley, the Defence Minister. Life in Mozambique is seriously disrupted by South African-backed rebels.

Mrs Thatcher had offered Mozambique an additional £15m worth of aid provided the Government reached an agreement with the International Monetary Fund. President Chissano told journalists that talks with the Fund were "going well," and he was expecting "good news in a few days."

Although the two leaders discussed developments in South Africa, President Chissano said he had not asked Mrs Thatcher



Chissano: expecting good news

to support further sanctions against Pretoria, knowing the Prime Minister's strong opposition to such measures. But he had urged Mrs Thatcher to persuade the South African Government to negotiate with the African National Congress and to continue Britain's own contacts with the nationalist movement.

The President confirmed that Mozambique would be sending a delegation to the Commonwealth summit to be held in Vancouver in October. Mozambique is not a member of the organisation, but it would have observer status.