

[17]

Portuguese official in Zimbabwe; comments on Angola and Mozambique *(Text)* Harare, 5th February:

Zimbabwe President Robert Mugabe said on Monday [5th February] he hoped Portugal would continue to play a positive role in trying to bring peace to the region, particularly in Mozambique, the ZIANA news agency reports. He told the visiting Portuguese Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, Mr Jose Barroso, Zimbabwe, as one of the mediators in the Mozambican peace initiative, would do its best to achieve peace in that country. Mr Barroso, who is being accompanied by a team of Portuguese businessmen, is on a four-day visit to Zimbabwe, after attending the SADCC annual consultative meeting in Lusaka last week. He is due to leave Zimbabwe later on Monday. He told newsmen earlier he was in Zimbabwe to discuss the situation in the region, mainly South Africa and Mozambique. Bilateral relations had also been scussed at a meeting he had on Sunday with the Finance, conomic Planning and Development Minister, Mr Bernard Muzondo. He said his country was closely following developments in Mozambique and would play its own part in ensuring the achievement of peace there.

On the situation in Angola, he said Portugal was in contact with both the Angolan government and rebel UNITA leadership and a practical way of ending the conflict was being sought. He refused to comment on the lack of progress in the implementation of the Gbadolite agreement, saying: "We prefer not to say who is complying or not." He said UNITA leader Dr Jonas Savimbi was recently in Lisbon, where official discussions had been held and the Portuguese government had stressed the need for peace in Angola. (SAPA English 1200 gmt 5 Feb 90)