

Rebels hold key to peace

THE Mozambican Government may be obliged to negotiate with its sworn enemy, the Renamo rebel movement, if the Nkomati peace agreement with Pretoria is to function effectively, diplomats in Lisbon suggested this weekend.

The security-part of the Nkomati accord is being successfully implemented by both South Africa and Mozambique. Other aspects embracing the economy, tourism and Cahora Bassa are hanging fire because of the continuing guerrilla war in Mozambique.

Late last week representatives of South Africa,

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Mozambique and Portugal met for a further round of talks in Lisbon on the Cahora Bassa project and reportedly reached agreement on new tariffs and conditions of supply.

Sunday Times Tariffs 22/4 1984

No details were released, but reliable sources in Lisbon say that both Portugal and South Africa made it clear to Mozambique that without firm safety guarantees for the 800km of powerline run-

ning through guerrilla-infested territory, the future of the dam remains uncertain.

At the same time Renamo sources in Lisbon claim that both South Africa and Portugal have cautioned Maputo that the envisaged flow of foreign investment, economic aid and tourism to Mozambique will only be possible once guerrilla-resistance has stopped and internal security can be guaranteed.

Renamo says it has stockpiled sufficient arms and equipment inside Mozambique to run the war for the next two years, while the Mozambique Government itself has warned residents of the capital to expect some guerrilla activity in and around Maputo in coming months.

There are also signs that the government amnesty presently being set up for rebels who wish to opt out of the fight, may itself become a cover for some form of accommodation with Renamo, although the rebels firmly deny they are considering a ceasefire.