



THE American senior deputy assistant secretary of state for African affairs, Mr Charles Freeman.

Maputo, Pretoria call on US to help end MNR atrocities

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Herald Reporter
MOZAMBIQUE and South Africa have formally asked the United States to help end the MNR bandit menace and bring peace to Mozambique, the American senior deputy assistant secretary of state for Afri-

can affairs, Mr Charles Freeman, said in Harare yesterday.

He said the two countries had suggested that the United States could have a role to play in creating peace in the war-torn country. The Bush administration was presently holding exploratory talks with the parties involved to determine the

basis for the American role in the peace initiatives.

Speaking to newsmen after two hours of talks with President Mugabe at State House, Mr Freeman said he had already held discussions with the leaders of Angola, Mozambique and South Africa.

The American official said the exploratory talks had so far been very encouraging. He had come to Zimbabwe

because of its vital interest in the promotion of peace and stability in Mozambique.

Mr Freeman said during his talks with President Joaquim Chissano the Mozambican leader had made it clear that he would welcome peace initiatives once the American role had been defined. It was the wish of both Maputo and Pretoria to see peace prevail in Mozambique.

During a two-day Socialist International meeting in Harare last month, President Chissano confirmed that South Africa had contacted Mozambique proposing a joint United States-Soviet Union intervention to settle the conflict.

He said his government would talk to the South African-sponsored MNR bandits only if they renounced violence and agreed to be rein-

tegrated into the community.

On his talks with President Mugabe, Mr Freeman said they had discussed wide-ranging issues on Southern Africa, including progress on the South Africa, Cuba and Angola peace accord signed last year, Namibian independence and the proposed peace moves in Mozambique.

During discussions, Cde

Mugabe had expressed interest in finding a solution to the Mozambican conflict. The talks had been fruitful and would help in determining the American role.

On Namibia's independence, Mr Freeman said his government was committed to seeing Namibia become independent through fair and democratic elections. "It is important that elections go smoothly," he said.