

Renounce violence, MNR told

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THE Mozambican government is ready to receive MNR bandits if they renounce violence but it will not discuss with the bandits as a group because it "represents nothing".

Addressing the Press on Sunday in Dakar, Mozambican President Cde Joaquim Chissano said that repentant bandits could come to the upcoming fifth congress and "talk directly with the people".

Mozambique has an operative amnesty law. At the congress, the constitution will be up for review and Cde Chissano said, "if the constitution should change, it will take place in a free discus-

sion and together with the party and populace". The bandits, he added, cannot impose their ideas on Mozambicans.

The MNR, or Renamo in its Portuguese acronym, was a creation of the Rhodesian secret service to harass Zimbabwean freedom fighters operating from independent Mozambique. After Zimbabwean independence in 1980, the group was taken over, supplied and led by the South Africans.

Cde Chissano said that despite South Africa's repeated refusal to abide by the 1984 Nkomati accord, which required that it stop its support to the bandits, Mozambique again received South African

president P. W. Botha at Songo, Mozambique in 1988.

Cde Chissano said that even before the arrival of aid the MNR sabotaged a lengthy part of the electrical pylons carrying power from the Cahora Bassa dam in Mozambique. South Africa then promised to repair the damage. — Ziana-Pana.