

MOZAMBIQUE: Negotiations with RENAMO ? *ION 25-3-89*

Is the Mozambican government prepared to negotiate with the guerillas if they accepted a cease-fire ? At least, President **Joaquim Chissano**'s statements to the press on his visit to Dakar, March 19 pointed to this. Chissano said that "if the rebels were to cease being rebels, they would be here amongst our people and would have the opportunity to participate in the Vth congress".

I.O.N.- Mr. Chissano's statement may have been rather vague, but it confirms that the Mozambique government is prepared to hold talks with at least some of its opponents, both within RENAMO and outside of it (UNAMO, CUNIMO, etc.), who are willing to renounce their armed struggle against the government, even if there is no mention of a move towards a multi-party system. Mr. Chissano also suggests that negotiations with RENAMO are feasible if the latter would agree to a cease-fire. The same condition put a stop to indirect negotiations in 1984.