

# 'Ceasefire' rejected by Maputo as Renamo attacks continue

*Southern* 12/4/89

MOZAMBIQUE has rejected a ceasefire unilaterally declared by rebels of the Mozambican National Resistance (Renamo/MNR) "for humanitarian reasons."

Prime Minister Mario Machungo rejected the move on Wednesday, according to reports.

A Renamo statement distributed in Lisbon this week announced the ceasefire, which the group said was designed to allow relief supplies to reach those in need, and would last until the end of the month. The statement was reportedly signed by Renamo leader Afonso Dhlakama.

But the 'offer' was being seen by Mozambican sources as a ploy to un-

dermine a UN meeting later this week.

Attacks by the rebels continue despite the ceasefire, and have deliberately targeted warehouses of food and other relief supplies, reports the Mozambican news agency AIM.

Three staff of the International Committee of the Red Cross, the only international agency to operate in rebel areas, were kidnapped in the middle of last month. They have since been freed.

And Maputo radio reported this week that two people were killed and extensive destruction was caused in a Renamo raid on the town of Nacarua, in Nampula province, on April 4.

Nacarua is the capital of the district of Erati, and lies on the main road from Nampula to the neighbouring province of Cabo Delgado.

Some 2,000 rebels stayed in the town for most of the day, and looted food from the warehouses of Mozambique's government relief body, the Disasters Control Office (DPCCN), and of the agricultural marketing board, Agricom.

The rebels carried off as much as possible, and burnt the rest. The local health post, the police station, and the home of the district administrator were destroyed. Water and sanitation installations were mined.

The attack came four

days after the alleged ceasefire was to have come into effect. Two days later, the southern town of Marracuene, 30 km from Maputo, was attacked.

The group involved in the Nacaola attack is believed also to have been responsible for an attack on the Memba district capital, Memba Town, on March 16.

During that attack, three International Red Cross workers were kidnapped; a Swiss doctor, Claude Felix, a Dutch nurse, Liselotte Bosma, and a West German nurse, Friedrun Medert le Borgne, together with a Mozambican Red Cross official, Januario Mpatua.