

Mozambique: Defence Minister on negotiations with "those supporting armed banditry" (Excerpts) Defence Minister Alberto Chipande yesterday afternoon in Sofala province met with party and state leaders to hear the report on the province's political, military and socio-economic situation. . . The Defence Minister reminded those present of the (?hardships) endured during the struggle for national liberation and from the transition government to independence. The minister turned to the present phase of the Mozambican people's struggle, saying the Mozambican government is currently negotiating with all those supporting armed banditry rather than the armed bandits themselves:

[Chipande - recording] The war fought here only benefits those who do not want it to end. For us, it is not a question of bandits, not even Dhlakama. We are in direct contact with the ringleaders. We are negotiating, but we will not negotiate with Dhlakama. . . We are negotiating with the Americans, Portuguese, South Africans, British and the whole Western world, which supports the bandits. . . *(Maputo home service in Portuguese 1730 gmt 21 Apr 89)*