

# Chissano in peace appeal <sup>H.</sup> 1/8/84

MAPUTO.

MOZAMBICAN President Joaquim Chissano said yesterday that the Mozambican people desired peace with all rallying around the same goal of socialism.

At a mass rally in Maputo called to mark the end of the Frelimo party's fifth congress, President Chissano said: "We want peace, but only the peace that brings dignity, the peace that strengthens and consolidates our independence, the peace that eliminates discrimination."

He denied that the desire for peace meant that "our people feel themselves defeated" by the MNR bandits.

The peace required was one that would "unite the Mozambican people around a goal. The congress," he said, "had determined that this goal was socialism, because it corresponds with the interests of the people."

He warned that while this kind of peace was not obtained "we will continue the combat against banditry, including armed combat."

He scoffed at the claims of the MNR leadership that they are not bandits, comparing this to the behaviour of a thief who, when caught red-handed, denies that he has just committed a crime.

Despite everything, President Chissano said, the congress had decided that efforts to speak to the MNR should be continued.

He said the congress had repeated the appeal to the MNR to look into their consciences and end the war. The Mozambican people were ready to open their hearts and receive them, he said. —  
Zigzag AIM.