

## FRELIMO'S FIFTH CONGRESS

# **Kaunda joins group to mediate with rebel forces**

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PRESIDENT Kenneth Kaunda of Zambia will have an "important role" to play in any peace process in Mozambique, President Joaquim Chissano told the congress, according to the Mozambican news agency *AIM*.

Chissano was responding to a message of solidarity Kaunda had delivered from Zambia's ruling United National Independence Party. Kaunda had said he would support any moves by Frelimo "to reach the minds" of the leaders of the Mozambique National Resistance (MNR/Renamo) rebels.

Kaunda had said that such moves should be made out of compassion "for both the victims and the killers".

"The slogan which President Kaunda has given us", said Chissano, "is 'do everything to save the leaders of Renamo'. We are going to reach into the minds of the Renamo chiefs. We are going to save them from the clutches of those who control them."

Attempts to achieve this were already underway, he said, and "at the right moment" Kaunda would be called upon to play an "important role".

Chissano had earlier told the conference that the government would agree to talk to Renamo, if the rebels accepted the principles set out by the authorities.

These include an end to all acts of terrorism and banditry, and acceptance that no group may impose its will on the people or government by violence.

A group of African heads of state is to be set up to help bring the conflict to an end, following Kenyan President Daniel Arap Moi's visit to Maputo last week. Zimbabwe's President Robert Mugabe has become the first person to be invited to join Moi in this group.