

# Renamo issues its peace terms

**NAIROBI** — Mozambique's rebels have pledged their good faith in continued negotiations towards peace but have called for the withdrawal of Zimbabwean troops from the country and accused them of killing civilians, writes *Todd Shields*.

It was Renamo's first public statement since last week's indirect talks here involving the Kenyan and Zimbabwean presidents and Mozambican church leaders. The statement and a covering letter, hand-delivered to journalists' offices in Nairobi, appeared to be conciliatory and forswore any intention to overthrow the Maputo government. On the issue of elections, Renamo said: "The people

are sovereign and have the inalienable right to elect their leaders." Observers noted the absence of Renamo's previous demands for multi-party elections. In its peace offer the Frelimo government made no provision for elections, instead holding out a chance for former "bandits" to join Frelimo.

In the negotiations, "agreement was reached on the importance of an immediate end to the civil war", Renamo said in its English-language covering letter, adding that the encounter had laid groundwork for further negotiations. "Renamo publicly declares that it will do everything it can so the actual negotiation pro-

cess continues and finally ends in peace," said the statement.

The negotiations that ended on Friday appeared to have left the two sides far apart on several issues, said sources briefed by officials of the Kenyan government, which acted as intermediary.

In its 16-point statement Renamo called for respect for secular traditions, an apparent reference to the rebels' longstanding complaint that the government in Maputo does not respect chiefs. "It is not Renamo's intention to change the existing order in Mozambique through armed force," the statement said, adding: "None of the parties involved in this conflict has anything to win

with the continuation of the war."

The statement also accused the air force of neighbouring Zimbabwe of bombing civilian targets at a cost of 501 lives. Zimbabwe maintains about 10,000 troops in Mozambique to guard its road and rail links to the Indian Ocean from Renamo attack.

The statement appeared at least partly to be a demand that Renamo be treated as Frelimo's equal, with neither side laying blame on the other. "An end must be put to insulting verbal attacks," it said. "Emphasise the future, not the past." Mozambique's official media persists in calling Renamo figures "armed bandit ringleaders".