

MOZAMBIQUE: First steps towards peace ? ION. 26/8/89

RENAMO's leader, **Afonso Dhaklama**, announced, in a statement issued on August 20 in Nairobi, his decision to call a halt to the attacks in the Nacala corridor, where he said activity can now carry on as usual. According to Mr Dhaklama, this constitutes "*the first steps towards the peace process in Mozambique.*" Although, in the field the clashes continue, this gesture of goodwill comes after a RENAMO delegation (led by Mr Dhaklama) met for talks with representatives of the Mozambican Church in Nairobi from August 7 to 11. The talks were held with the double mediation of Kenya and Zimbabwe. These discussions took place in the utmost secrecy. On one hand, the Catholic Archbishop of Maputo, Cardinal **Alexandre dos Santos**, presented RENAMO with a 12-point plan drawn up by President **Joaquim Chissano** (ION N°392). RENAMO, for its part, demanded the election of a constituent assembly, while **FRELIMO**, at its conference at the end of July, decided to abandon any reference to marxism. Several Western countries may be involved in the future steps of the peace process.