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Mozambican President says MNR rebels are changing their attitude towards talks (*Excerpt*) President Joaquim Chissano said during his trip back home today that the leaders of the so-called Renamo [MNR] have begun to speak in a somewhat different manner about recognising the legal existence of the People's Republic of Mozambique as a state which has a government with which they should talk. Speaking to journalists who had accompanied him to Lusaka, President Chissano said, however, that there was a need for greater strength and a deeper knowledge of that stand so that Mozambican officials can in fact recognise the existence of a correct platform for dialogue. Joaquim Chissano added that there are new indications that the leaders of the so-called Renamo have begun to accept the existence of a principled platform which, according to the President, they consider to be a precondition. Turning to the possible integration of the armed bandits into society, the head of state clarified that such a possibility should be discussed within the framework of dialogue on the normalisation of the lives of all Mozambicans, a normalisation which should lead to the possibility of each Mozambican citizen taking part in the country's political, economic and social life in a free and democratic manner.

On the question of a one-party and a multiparty system in Mozambique, Joaquim Chissano recalled that the issue will be tackled during the ongoing debate and will assume an even more concrete shape as of next month. He said that Renamo members can take part in this debate as citizens. The leaders of the Mozambican state will only have to reach a consensus out of this debate, and should this not be possible, they should draw objective conclusions through various democratic methods available, namely a referendum and means which embody the principle that in the People's Republic of Mozambique the people are sovereign. President Chissano added that Renamo will then have to submit to the will of the majority and find ways of adapting itself to the circumstances. . . (*Radio Mozambique, Maputo, in Portuguese 1730 gmt 28 Feb 90*)