

Mandela sees Renamo

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MAPUTO. — President Nelson Mandela yesterday said he was impressed by Renamo leader Mr Afonso Dhlakama's commitment to peace.

Mr Mandela was speaking after a brief meeting with Mr Dhlakama during his state visit here.

Efforts had been made in the past for him to meet Mr Dhlakama, but the time factor had made this impossible, he said.

He said he was impressed by "the extent to which he (Mr Dhlakama) has stressed the ques-

Impressed by peace pledge

tion of peace and the question of addressing problems together with President Joachim Chissano.

"Some of the problems he has outlined are problems which have been outlined by President Chissano.

"These are problems of communication and

the number of landmines that are littered throughout the country, which make campaigning very difficult."

Mr Mandela said Mr Dhlakama had adopted a conciliatory tone and a desire to reach a settlement with President Chissano.

The meeting between

the two leaders took place against a background of opposition by Mozambique's ruling Frelimo Party, which feared that Mr Dhlakama would derive political gain from being seen in public with Mr Mandela.

Mr Dhlakama, whose Renamo is Frelimo's main opposition in elections due in late October, said Mr Mandela was an important figure in Southern Africa. He said his intervention in Mozambique's peace process was to be welcomed.