

MOZAMBIQUE

o The rebel Mozambique National Resistance (MNR) has said it is withdrawing completely from talks with South Africa and Maputo on ending the fighting in Mozambique, and is launching "its biggest ever offensive" in the country. The MNR had announced on 17 October that it was withdrawing from the tripartite commission until Maputo recognised its equal status in the negotiations, but it did agree to participate in indirect talks in Pretoria on 29-31 October, with South Africa acting as go-between (AED 2:11:84; 19:10:84). It appears to have called off participation even in these, because of Maputo's continuing refusal to recognise the MNR's legitimacy. MNR's Lisbon-based representative Jorge Correia said on 2 November, "There is no point in continuing encounters in Pretoria because (South African Foreign Affairs & Information Minister Roelof) 'Pik' Botha, who has always demonstrated himself to be an unconditional ally of the Marxist-Leninist regime, does not merit our confidence." Correia's statement followed cancellation — at the insistence of the South African government — of an MNR press conference due to have been held in Pretoria on 1 November. AED 9/11/84