

Invitation to bandits H 22/3 denied 89

MAPUTO.

MOZAMBICAN President Joaquim Chissano has denied reports in international news agencies that he has invited representatives of the South African backed MNR bandits to attend the fifth congress of the Frelimo Party, due to be held in Maputo in July.

Cde Chissano was speaking to journalists at Maputo airport on his return on Monday night from a tour that had taken him to Gabon, Holland, Belgium and Senegal. The inaccurate reports referred to were of his Sunday Press conference in the Senegalese capital, Dakar.

Asked about his supposed "invitation" to the bandits, Cde Chissano replied: "It's not true. What I said was that if the bandits were to cease being bandits, then they would be here, among our people, and would have the opportunity to discuss the congress theses as we are all doing."

● MNR bandits are holding four International Red Cross workers, a Red Cross spokesman said in Geneva yesterday. — Ziana-AIM-AP.