

**Mozambican army planning "major offensive" in May** (*Excerpts*) Lisbon, 3rd May: The Mozambican army plans to launch a "major offensive" this month in the centre and north of the country with the help of troops from Zimbabwe and Tanzania, anti-government rebels said here Thursday. The Mozambique National Resistance (Renamo) denounced what it called the "bad faith" of the Maputo government and held the regime "entirely responsible" for the continuing of the civil war, in a statement made available to AFP. The authorities were issuing "pompous" declarations on the urgent need for face-to-face peace talks, while "only seeking to win time and stay in power", the Renamo statement added.

President Joaquim Chissano said Tuesday [1st May] in Maputo that Renamo had turned down a government offer to hold direct talks in Malawi, adding that the rebels had instead named Portugal, the former colonial power, as the place they wanted to meet the authorities. In Maputo, Presbyterian church sources Thursday said Renamo guerrillas had on Wednesday killed a Swiss doctor, Rene Gagnaux, who had worked in Mozambique for the past 25 years. . .

Health units and personnel have been among Renamo's main targets. According to health ministry figures, between 1980 and the end of 1988, the rebels destroyed 291 peripheral health posts and a further 687 had been either looted or forced to close. The 978 units knocked out represented 46% of the total primary health care network. . . (*AFP in English 1551 gmt 3 May 90*)