

PEACE IN MOZA

● Ceasefire set for October 1

ROME.
FIGHTING ends in Mozambique on October 1 with a ceasefire agreed in a joint declaration signed in Rome yesterday by President Joaquim Chissano and MNR leader Mr Afonso Dhlakama.

The historic peace agreement, signed in the presence of President Mugabe and Italian mediators at the 16th century Villa Madama overlooking Rome, set in motion steps to be followed, including the role of the United Nations monitoring group to assist the peace process.

The agreement, the result of three days of delicate talks brokered by the Italian government, the Catholic Church and President Mugabe, commits both sides to conclude a final peace accord by October 1 to end 15 years of conflict.

Chief Italian mediator Mr Mario Raffaelli said the aim was to reach a full peace accord by October 1, the date by which hostilities are to cease.

International

The agreement calls for the international community and especially the United Nations to help monitor the peace process, including the country's first multi-party elections and a ceasefire.

The agreement was signed in the presence of President Mugabe, the architect of the three-day Rome meeting that brought Cde Chissano and Mr Dhlakama together for the first time.

Mr Roland "Tiny" Rowland, chief executive of

Lonrho, sat in the front row of guests at the signing ceremony. He had taken part in the informal talks hosted by President Mugabe that cleared the way to the agreement.

The joint declaration at the end of four days of intense deliberations was signed by President Chissano, Mr Dhlakama and President Mugabe, and witnessed by the Botswana foreign minister Ms Gaositwe Chiepe and mediators, Professor Mario Raffaelli of the Italian government, Catholic Archbishop Goncalves of Mozambique, and Professor Andrea Riccardi and Mr Matteo Zuppi.

The six-page document binds the Mozambican government and the MNR to guaranteeing conditions that would allow complete political freedom, in accordance with internationally recognised democratic principles.

The parties would also guarantee personal security of all Mozambican citizens and all political parties.

Community

The agreement accepted the role of the international community, especially that of the United Nations, in monitoring and guaranteeing the implementation of the general peace agreement, in particular the ceasefire and the electoral process.

It also calls on the Mozambican government "not to act in a way that is contrary to the terms of the protocols established, not to adopt laws or measures and not to apply current laws that may eventually be contrary

to the protocol".

It also requires the MNR undertakes not to fight after the ceasefire has been effected but to conduct its political campaign observing current laws within the framework of existing state institutions and respecting the condition and guarantees laid down in the general peace agreement.

Under the agreement, the parties also pledged themselves to safeguarding political rights.

To that end, the Mozambican government would submit to its parliament for adoption, legal instruments incorporating the protocols and guarantees as well as a general peace agreement into Mozambican law.

"On the basis of the above principles and of our commitment as contained in this solemn declaration, we, Joaquim Alberto Chissano, President of the Republic of Mozambique, and Afonso Machacho Marceta Dhlakama, president of Renamo, now hereby mandate and instruct our respective negotiating delegations in the Rome peace process, to complete by October 1 1992, the approval of the remaining protocols as foreseen in the agreed agenda, therefore, allowing the signing of the general peace agreement by that date," says the agreement.

The signing of the general peace agreement and the adoption by the Mozambican parliament of the provisions of the declaration would make effective the ceasefire agreement.

President Mugabe left for London en route to Zimbabwe soon after the signing. — Ziana.