

## President on way to peace parley

LONDON — President Mugabe arrived here yesterday on his way to Rome, Italy, to attend the first direct peace talks between Mozambican President Joaquim Chissano and MNR leader Mr Afonso Dhlakama.

President Mugabe, who is accompanied by the Minister of State for National Security, Cde Syd-

ney Sekeramayi, and the Minister of Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs, Cde Emmerson Mnangagwa, was met at Gatwick Airport by the Zimbabwe High Commissioner to Britain, Cde Stephen Chiketa.

In London, the President was expected to have several engagements later in the day before leaving for Rome today to observe the two-day peace talks aimed at ending the 15-year civil war in Mozambique.

The presence of President Mugabe at the landmark face-to-face talks between President Chissano and Mr Dhlakama in Rome should add weight to the apparent common desire for peace by both sides.

"If the MNR responds to this (peace) appeal, then I will meet Dhlakama. I shall shake Dhlakama's hand. I shall pick up my pen and write that

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## President

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the war has ended," said President Chissano to thousands of Beira residents at a mass rally recently.

Mr Dhlakama has also expressed similar sentiments.

After his recent meeting with President Mugabe and Sir Ketumile Masire in Gaborone, Botswana, Mr Dhlakama was quoted as saying that his movement was ready for an immediate ceasefire so long as there were guarantees that he and his followers would not be arrested or harassed by the Mozambican government.

On his part, President Chissano is quoted as having said he could go to Rome "because I will be able to give these guarantees with certainty and honesty".

Mr Dhlakama was reported to be optimistic that Mozambique could enjoy peace before the end of this year, but only if the government gives constitutional guarantees.

The MNR leader was quoted in Press reports emanating from Lisbon, Portugal, at the weekend as saying he would sign no ceasefire agreement without promises from President Chissano.

"Any other situation would mean the end of Renamo, the end of democracy, the end of everything we have fought for," said Mr Dhlakama.

"My strategy is to sit down with Joaquim Chissano, face-to-face and in the presence of important people, to tell him: 'My brother, I want there to be peace and to abolish this, this and this — the Mozambican government must give Renamo and the Mozambican people guarantees.'" — Ziana.