

## MOZAMBIQUE: A myriad of mediators      ION 8-4-89

At the moment, there are many propositions circulating as how to tackle negotiations between *Renamo* and *Frelimo*. The Catholic Church, for one, seems to be playing a very active role right now, with the support of the Mozambican Government. The *Indian Ocean Newsletter* has been informed that Mozambican Church leaders met with *Renamo* representatives in Kenya last month. An earlier meeting in Washington with a *Renamo* representative was apparently "disappointing". For the time being, Catholic Church officials are trying to determine *Renamo*'s exact wishes.

Also, a Jesuit priest from the Commission of Justice and Peace, **Manuel Carreira das Neves**, is currently in permanent transit between Italy and Portugal, while a representative of the Commission was recently received at the Presidential office in Maputo in an attempt to establish possible bases for discussion with *Renamo*'s military element.

On an international level, the Americans privately confirm that they are ready to act as mediators, just as South Africa asked them to do several weeks ago. But before they will agree to play this role, they would like Mozambique to make them the same proposition. However, in Maputo, uncertainty still surrounds Pretoria's real intentions and thus there is a tendency to exercise caution. The Americans for their part, would also insist that, if talks were to be held between Mozambique and South Africa under their aegis, Zimbabwe participate as well. In Harare, possible discussions with Pretoria incite no great enthusiasm.

From the East, the Soviets are also showing their interest in doing "good deeds": **Anatoli Adamishin**, deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs was in Maputo last week at the same time as his South African counterpart, **Pik Botha**, while **Margaret Thatcher** was also on an official tour in the region (ION N° 376).