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PROFOREIGN EXRAATH  
FOLLOWING SCHEDULED WITH FNE  
FROM JAN RAATH, HARARE

101130 THE LINE-UP OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MOZAMBIQUE NATIONAL RESISTANCE (RENAMO) MEETING MOZAMBIKAN CHURCH REPRESENTATIVES FOR PRELIMINARY PEACE TALKS IN NAIROBI THIS WEEK IS INTENDED TO MAKE A POINT.

ACCOMPANYING MR AFONSO (RPT AFONSO) DHLAKAMA, RENAMO'S PRESIDENT, ARE MR RAUL MANUEL DOMINGOS, THE MOVEMENT'S NEWLY APPOINTED HEAD OF FOREIGN RELATIONS, AND MR VINCENTE ZACHARIAS ULULU, NOW IN CHARGE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION AND PROPAGANDA.

MR DOMINGOS, THE FORMER CHIEF OF STAFF, HAS REPLACED MR ARTUR JANEIRO DE FONSECA, A BLACK PORTUGUESE FORMER SEAMAN BASED IN WEST GERMANY, WHILE MR ULULU HAS TAKEN OVER FROM MR FRANCISCO NOTA MOISES, A FORMER BBC CORRESPONDENT IN KENYA WHO SERVED THE REBEL MOVEMENT FROM NORTH AMERICA.

THE ELEVATION OF THE TWO INDIGENOUS RENAMO MILITARY MEN AND THE EXCOMMUNICATION OF MR DE FONSECA AND MR MOISES AT RENAMO'S FIRST CONGRESS IN THE BUSH OF GORONGOSA NATIONAL PARK IN CENTRAL MOZAMBIQUE IS THE MOST CONCERTED ATTEMPT YET BY WHAT IS WIDELY RECOGNISED AS AN ARCAINE PROXY TERRORIST ORGANISATION TO ACHIEVE POLITICAL RECOGNITION.

THE CONGRESS, IN MID JUNE, THREW OUT THE LAST REMNANTS IN RENAMO'S HIERARCHY OF THE PORTUGUESE AND AMERICAN ELEMENTS. SINCE ABOUT 1984, THE 'LISBON FACTION' REPRESENTED BY FASCIST WHITE EX-MOZAMBIKAN BUSINESS INTERESTS HAS BEEN ENGAGED IN A SINISTER WAR AGAINST THE ASCENDENCY OF A HARDLY LESS RIGHT-WING MIXTURE OF EVANGELISTS, FORMER MILITARY OFFICERS AND BUSINESSMEN IN THE UNITED STATES, BOTH SEEKING POLITICAL CONTROL OF RENAMO IN THE HOPE THAT IT WOULD BE THE INSTRUMENT OF DESTRUCTION OF THE LATTERLY MARXIST GOVERNMENT OF MOZAMBIQUE'S RULING FRELIMO PARTY, WHILE SOUTH AFRICA PROVIDED MILITARY MUSCLE.

MORE

MOZREN ONE

THE CONGRESS ALSO CREATED A TEN-MAN NATIONAL COUNCIL, EACH ONE CHOSEN FROM ONE OF THE COUNTRY'S 10 PROVINCES, APPARENTLY TO DEMONSTRATE THAT RENAMO HAD NOW BECOME A BLACK, FULLY NATIONALIST MOVEMENT CLEANSED FOR ALL FOREIGN, REGINAL RPT REGINAL

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THE QUESTION POLITICAL OBSERVERS THROUGHOUT SOUTHERN AFRICA ARE ASKING NOW IS, WHO IS PULLING THE STRINGS THIS TIME?

CONJECTURE - FOR THERE APPEARS NO FIRM EVIDENCE, -- SEES THE HAND OF THE ADMINISTRATION OF PRESIDENT GEORGE BUSH LEANING INEXORABLY ON PRETORIA.

OBSERVERS HAVE NO DOUBT THAT THE TRANSFORMATION OF RENAMO IS A MANIPULATED ONE. FORMED BEFORE MOZAMBIQUE'S INDEPENDENCE IN 1975 BY RHODESIAN INTELLIGENCE TO MONITOR RHODESIAN BLACK NATIONALIST GUERRILLAS, THE PERSONALITIES IN ITS HIERARCHY HAVE BEEN LINKED BY RESEARCHERS TO THE PROLIFERATION OF INCONSEQUENTIAL ANTI-PORTUGUESE ORGANISATIONS AT THE TIME.

RENAMO TURNED INTO A RHODESIAN-BACKED DESTABILISATION ARMY AFTER 1975, AND WAS TAKEN OVER BY SOUTH AFRICA AFTER ZIMBABWE'S INDEPENDENCE WHEN RENAMO'S SALISBURY-BASED ADMINISTRATION WAS FLOWN COMPLETE WITH FILING CABINETS, TO PRETORIA BY UNMARKED HERCULES AIRCRAFT FROM THE NORTON AIRFIELD WEST OF THE CAPITAL HOURS BEFORE MR ROBERT MUGABE ASSUMED CONTROL IN ZIMBABWE.

FROM THE START, RENAMO'S POLITICAL VOICE WAS PROVIDED FROM LISBON, LATER LINKED DIRECTLY BY RADIO AND TELEX TO A SOUTH AFRICAN ARMY BASE IN THE NORTHERN TRANSVAAL. BUT IN THE MID-80S, RIGHT WING ELEMENTS IN THE UNITED STATES, MANY OF THEM INVOLVED IN THE NICARAGUAN CONTRAS AND ANGOLA'S UNITA MOVEMENT, TOOK AN ACTIVE INTEREST AND BEGAN TO WEAN RENAMO AWAY FROM THE "PRETORIA/LISBON AXIS."

RENAMO IS NOW OFFICIALLY RECOGNISED BY NO GOVERNMENT. THE OFTCITED REPORT FOR THE STATE DEPARTMENT BY MR ROBERT GERSONY DRAWS AMPLE COMPARISONS BETWEEN RENAMO'S BIZARRE BRUTALITY AND THE KHMER ROUGE.

ASSESSMENTS OF ITS MILITARY EFFECTIVENESS VARY. MR WILLIAM MINTER OF GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY IN MARCH THIS YEAR CONCLUDED IN HIS STUDY THAT RENAMO WAS "NOT A LOOSE COLLECTION OF WARLORDS AND ROVING BANDS, BUT RATHER AN ARMY WITH A CLEAR HIERARCHICAL STRUCTURE AND GOOD COMMAND CONTROL AND COMMUNICATIONS."

YET A MONTH LATER AND, ONLY DAYS AFTER RENAMO ANNOUNCED A UNILATERAL CEASEFIRE TO ALLOW FAMINE RELIEF OPERATIONS TO PROCEED, A SURGE IN RENAMO ACTIVITY OCCURRED IN THE SOUTHERN, MAPUTO PROVINCE AND THE NORTHERN ZAMBEZIA PROVINCE, TWO OF THE REGIONS MOST DESPERATELY NEEDING HELP.

POLITICAL OBSERVERS ARE UNANIMOUS THAT RENAMO HAS MINIMAL POPULAR SUPPORT, AND CITE MR CHISSANO'S RECENT RURAL MEETINGS WHERE HE QUESTIONED VILLAGERS ON THEIR VIEWS ON TALKS WITH RENAMO. INDEPENDENT OBSERVERS CONFIRM PRESS REPORTS THAT HE ENCOUNTERED WIDESPREAD OPPOSITION, AND OFTEN HOSTILITY TO ANY CONTACTS.

AMERICAN OFFICIALS HERE AND IN MAPUTO, SUPPORTED BY SATELLITE SURVEILLANCE, ASSERT THAT SOUTH AFRICA CONTINUES TO PROVIDE LOGISTICAL SUPPORT TO RENAMO, DESPITE THE MEETING BETWEEN PRESIDENT JOAQUIM

CHISSANO AND PRESIDENT P.W. BOTHA AT SONGO IN NORTH-WEST MOZAMBIQUE LAST YEAR WHERE MR BOTHA REAFFIRMED PRETORIA'S COMMITMENT TO THE 1984 NON-AGGRESSION PACT BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES.

MORE

MOZKEN TWO

THE STRUGGLE FOR ASCENDANCY HAS SEEN THE ASSASSINATION IN MALAWI IN 1987 OF TWO WASHINGTON-INCLINED RENAMO OFFICIALS, MR JOAO ATAIDE AND MR MATEUS LOPES, AS WELL AS THE MYSTERIOUS MURDER LAST YEAR IN LISBON OF ITS THEN SECRETARY-GENERAL, WEALTHY FORMER MOZAMBICAN ENTREPRENEUR MR EVO FERNANDES, HEAD OF THE LISBON FACTION.

DIPLOMATS HERE AND IN MAPUTUTO POINT OUT THAT A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT WITH MR CHISSANO'S FRELIMO GOVERNMENT IS IN THE INTERESTS OF NEITHER THE WASHINGTON-BASED FACTION, DRAWING ON SUPPORT FROM ORGANISATIONS LIKE THE WORLD ANTI-COMMUNIST LEAGUE (CAP W,A,C,L), NOR OF THE ULTRA-RIGHT IN LISBON.

THE RIGHT-WING CAUCUS IN THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS, LOBBIED BY THE HERITAGE FOUNDATION AND FREEDOM INC., HAVE FAILED TO ELICIT SUPPORT FOR RENAMO FROM BOTH THE REAGAN AND BUSH ADMINISTRATIONS, WHILE SOVIET DIPLOMATS HERE CONFIRM THAT THEY ARE ENGAGED IN WHAT THEY

DESCRIBE AS "SHADOW DIPLOMACY" WITH SOUTH AFRICA OVER MOZAMBIQUE.

"IT'S COMMON KNOWLEDGE THERE IS A JOINT DIPLOMATIC OFFENSIVE BY THE SOVIET UNION AND THE UNITED STATES ON SOUTH AFRICA TO STOP MILITARY INVOLVEMENT IN ITS NEIGHBOURS," SAID A SENIOR WESTERN DIPLOMAT HERE. "WITHDRAWAL FROM ANGOLA FIRST, THEN KAMBIA. MOZAMBIQUE IS OBVIOUSLY NEXT ON THE CARDS."

SOUTH AFRICA, WITH ITS REGULAR LINE OF COMMUNICATIONS WITH RENAMO-INCLUDING A RAPID FREQUENCY-HOPPING RADIO LINK BETWEEN GORONGOSA AND THE NORTHERN TRANSVAAL - IS WELL PLACED, AFTER NINE YEARS OF RUNNING THE SHOW, TO PUSH MR DHLAKAMA INTO PEACE NEGOTIATIONS.

"FRELIMO'S QUESTION ABOUT PEACE TALKS HAS ALWAYS BEEN, WITH WHOM AND WHAT?" , SAID THE SENIOR DIPLOMAT. "THE GORONGOSA CONGRESS HAS AT LEAST PRODUCED SOMETHING THAT RESEMBLES AN INDIGENOUS POLITICAL MOVEMENT."

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