

EVIDENCE of clandestine contact between Renamo guerrillas and white insurgents from South Africa has been detailed in a dossier prepared by researchers at the Eduardo Mondlane University in Maputo.

The document, released just before last week's peace talks between the rebel movement and Mozambican church leaders in Kenya, is bound to increase pressure from Western governments on Pretoria to halt support for Renamo.

Senior sources in South Africa's Department of Foreign Affairs acknowledge such pressure has compelled the government to draft legislation that will make it illegal for anyone to support the rebel movement.

Atrocities committed by Renamo have earned it the reputation of being among the most brutal terror groups in the world.

The Maputo dossier was released last month in the wake of claims by Herman Cohen, United States Assis-

While Renamo talks go on, more talk of SA connection

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Detailed eyewitness accounts of South African contacts with Renamo rebels have become commonplace in Maputo in recent months. Diplomatic sources believe that while official support has ceased, an informal network of Renamo sympathisers in South Africa may be responsible. By EDDIE KOCH and PAUL MUSKER

based mainly on Mozambican press articles and the testimony of defectors

ant Secretary of State for African Affairs, that aid to the rebel movement was still coming from sources in this country and South African security forces were doing little to stop it.

It describes underground operations to smuggle arms into Mozambique through Swaziland, incidents this year in which rebel bases were supplied by South African airplanes and clandestine visits by boats and submarines to Mozambique's shores.

Some of the events described in the document are similar to an account given by a former Renamo recruit to the *Weekly Mail* last week.

The list of events in the document,

from Renamo, includes reports that:

● On May 2 this year Namibian citizen Paulus Marcos appeared in court in Manzini, Swaziland, charged with smuggling arms of war through the country into Mozambique. Marcos said he had planned to hand the arms, supplied by Joao Antonio, of Orlando East in Soweto, to a man named Antonio Fernandes at the George Hotel in Manzini.

● Residents and mineworkers travelling through the border town of Ressano Garcia during a Renamo strike on April 27 say they saw vehicles similar to those used by the South African Police transporting re-

bel fighters across the frontier from the direction of Komatiport. Residents claim the shopping centre was lit up with searchlights from trucks to assist the rebels in looting it.

● On May 24 Renamo deserter Alexandre Semo said he had witnessed war material being transported by submarine to a coastal site in the Magunje district of Sofala province.

● On May 25 a former Renamo recruit, 16-year-old Domingos Estevo, said two South African boats had unloaded boxes of arms and ammunition on Magunje island north of Beira in March this year.

A separate report by Mozambique's news agency, Aim, quotes a Renamo deserter, Deolinda Chauque, 21, as saying she was held in a base near the border with the Kruger National Park until February this year and had seen trucks from South Africa supplying the guerrillas.

A road linked the Renamo base and the frontier, she said. "Vehicles enter along this road, normally after midnight. When the bandits know that vehicles or planes are coming they order everyone in the base to sleep as early as possible, perhaps to prevent them from seeing the number plates or anything else that could make it easier to identify those who are supplying the weaponry."

The South African Defence Force and the Department of Foreign Affairs have repeatedly denied Pretoria is still backing Renamo but do not rule out the possibility of private support networks in South Africa.

Most diplomatic sources believe official support for the rebels from the SADF has ceased and that Foreign Affairs officials are sincere in their desire stop private backing for Renamo.

The Eduardo Mondlane University dossier claims that Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Anatoly Adamashin provided proof of continued support from South Africa for Renamo when he met Foreign Minister Pik Botha in March and demanded that it stop.

After his visit to Southern Africa in May this year, US Secretary of State Herman Cohen echoed the dossier when he said:

"Unfortunately we continue to see evidence that a certain amount of assistance is coming into Mozambique from South Africa. Now whether this is being done by elements of the SA military or by the private sector such as former Portuguese residents who now reside in South Africa is very difficult for us to tell. But we continue to pressure the SA government to shut off this aid."

Senior officials in the Department of Foreign Affairs have stated privately that they are responding by preparing legislation to outlaw any form of assistance to Renamo. This has been confirmed by embassy sources.