

MOZAMBICAN COMMENT ON EXILED OPPOSITION GROUPS' "OPPORTUNISM"

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Text of report (ME/0548 ii)

The search for peace in Mozambique recently initiated by the Mozambican government has led to several occurrences abroad of pure political and economic opportunism, according to a report by AIM's [Mozambican news agency's] Lisbon correspondent Tomas Vieira Mario read by Leonel Matias:

[Matias] Mario says the most recent example comes from Portugal, where in the past few days groups of individuals describing themselves as political opponents of the Mozambican government, though their identity is totally unknown, have held successive meetings and news conferences, telling journalists about their identity and their plans.

The most prominent among these groups are the so-called Monamo, acronym standing for Mozambique Nationalist Movement, and Cunimo, Committee for Mozambican Unity. The two groups held an important joint meeting in Lisbon last weekend to achieve what they described as the unification of all Mozambican political organisations in exile, excluding the armed bandits. As they claimed, they wish to prepare their political participation in Mozambique's political scene. Heading such groups are individuals revived from a long political death that were linked to neo-colonial projects both before and after Mozambique's independence in 1975. They include Maximo Dias and Domingos Arouca, who are linked to Monamo, and Antonio Zengazena, representing Cunimo. These groups, in their communiques, reject both the amnesty introduced by the Mozambican government and a possible government of national reconciliation, which they believe might come about as a result of an understanding between Frelimo and the armed bandits.

The AIM correspondent then describes some of those involved in the present campaign as people with well-established links with the armed bandits and who, at the eleventh hour, wish to dissociate themselves from the bandit gang and the latter's extremely bloody past. The opportunism showed by these groups, which began to emerge soon after President Joaquim Chissano disclosed initiatives to end the war, is linked to the interests of well-known groups of Portuguese settlers, namely former owners of private clinics, legal practices, funeral parlours, and even economic productive units taken over by the state after respective bosses had fled.
