

## SOUTH AFRICA/MOZAMBIQUE: Security Commission meeting

The joint Mozambican/South African Security Commission, created in 1984 but whose work was halted by Maputo in 1985 because of continued South African support for the RENAMO rebels, met again in Pretoria on July 7. This was the first meeting of the commission since the two countries decided last May 25 to resurrect the agreement on "good neighbourliness" signed in March 1984 (See ION N° 334) and follows the reaching of an agreement two weeks ago on the putting back into service of the Cahora Bassa dam (See ION N° 338). The South African delegation is led by the Director General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs **Niel Van Heerden**, while the Mozambican side was led by the Chief of the General Staff of the Mozambican armed forces **Tobias Dai**. The talks mainly concerned security conditions around the Cahora Bassa dam. It is believed that the South Africans are to supply defensive logistical assistance to the Mozambican armed forces who will be responsible for the protection of the power lines.

I.O.N.- RENAMO, until now directly or indirectly supported by South Africa is clearly the great loser in the rapprochement underway between Maputo and Pretoria. In contrast to the situation in 1984 at the time of "The Pretoria Declaration" on the modalities for a ceasefire in Mozambique, RENAMO is not represented--even indirectly--in the current discussions between the Mozambican government and South African leaders. The South Africans' willingness to abandon its ex protégé indicates that they have received important political "concessions" from the Mozambican side. These include: the rejection of the Marxist-Leninist line, new freedom for both the national and foreign (particularly South African) private sectors, Maputo's promise not to call for economic sanctions against South Africa, a realignment of Mozambican foreign policy towards the West, restriction of Cuban advisors to the civilian sectors, etc.

This will not prevent certain military groups in South Africa from continuing to assist RENAMO behind the scenes--a plan which South African generals made known in Lisbon recently. The decline of RENAMO will certainly not occur in the immediate future, since the organisation still has the capacity to continue its destabilisation campaign, even without continued South African aid. On the other hand, one can expect the organisation's military operations to be less coordinated than hitherto, since RENAMO has been much better equipped in sophisticated communication materials supplied by South Africa than the Mozambican armed forces. On June 29, RENAMO nonetheless issued a communiqué in Lisbon claiming that "Any attempt to bring the Cahora Bassa dam back on stream made without consulting RENAMO will be condemned to failure from the start. The agreement signed on June 21 between South Africa, Mozambique and Portugal will have absolutely no application on the ground." ION 9/7/88 p.2