

## Mozambique regime strengthens its hand

# Lisbon to curb Machel rebels

From Martha de la Cal, Lisbon

The Mozambique Foreign Minister, Mr Joaquin Chissano, said in Lisbon after talks with Senhor Mario Soares, the Portuguese Prime Minister, that his Government was satisfied with assurances from Portugal that steps would be taken to curb the activities in Lisbon of the Mozambique National Resistance movement, Renamo.

Maputo has protested for several years about the use of Lisbon by Renamo as a propaganda and operational centre against President Samora Machel's Government. Mozambique has claimed the Renamo secretary-general, Senhor Evo Fernandes, and its European representative, Senhor Jorge Correia, both Portuguese citizens, have links with prominent Portuguese politicians, includ-

ing members of the Government.

Renamo is reported to use Lisbon as a base for recruiting mercenaries among former Portuguese soldiers who fought in Mozambique during the war of independence.

The Mozambique Minister for Economic Affairs, General Jacinto Veloso, has accused the Portuguese in Renamo of continuing to supply arms, military training and political support to the MNR rebels. He has said there are ex-colonials in Portugal who had property in Mozambique before independence, and named a former Portuguese businessman in Mozambique as a possible Renamo backer.

General Veloso has accused Malawi, the Comoros Islands

and several Arab countries of assisting Renamo.

Both Mozambique and South Africa have blamed the Portuguese for their inability to enforce the non-appression agreement signed last March at Nkomati.

The Portuguese Government has been reluctant to take direct action against Renamo representatives because, under Portuguese law, citizens are free to speak on behalf of any cause or organization. But last week, Senhor Soares finally agreed to act.

Among measures being considered is a law which would make "provocations which bring reprisals" a crime. Those would include "acts not authorized by the Portuguese Government which could damage it militarily, diplomatically, economically or socially". The offence would be punishable by up to six years' imprisonment.

Senhor Fernandes reportedly will remain outside Portugal for a while. Senhor Correia, on the other hand, is still in Lisbon.

In an interview with *The Times* Senhor Correia said the Portuguese Government has no grounds to arrest him. "We of Renamo in Portugal only furnish information as is the right of every citizen. We do not traffic illegally in arms or recruit mercenaries."

He claimed that Renamo was not financed by private Portuguese citizens. "No one man could supply the large amounts of money needed," he said. "We are helped by the countries of western Europe and the Middle East."

Senhor Correia insisted that it was only the support of South Africa and the United States that was keeping President Samora Machel's regime in power.

He said that Renamo would never agree to govern jointly with Frelimo under the present Marxist regime in Mozambique, as has been discussed in South Africa.