

BANDIT FRIENDS

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American far right behind rebels

Gazette Reporter

AMERICAN organisations of the far right have been credited with success in efforts to combine the forces of rebel movements which have been programmed to topple the governments of Mozambique and Zimbabwe, regional watchers and political sources in Gaborone said.

Under a pact hammered out in Washington DC the American capital, the rebel Mozambique National Resistance Movement (MNR) has agreed to combine its forces with those of Rev. Ndabaningi Sithole, a former leader of the Zimbabwe African National



A victim of the MNR whose ears were cut off by the rebels, and Frelimo soldiers with weapons captured from an MNR camp they overran

Union (ZANU) who lives in exile in the USA.

"The new alliance marks one of successes of rightwing groups in the US who have been trying to present the disgraced Sithole and MNR as bonafide popular move-

ments who are fighting to topple dictatorial communist regimes to establish truly nationalist, pro-Western governments in Mozambique and Zimbabwe," one of

the sources said.

The rightwingers include groups like the Heritage Foundation and the Conservative Caucus, which he said, are stridently anti-communist

and are supported by other pressure groups. These groups operate outside the mainstream of American politics but have powerful friends in Congress as well as among the hawkish elements in the Reagan Administration.

The Conservative Caucus led by Mr Howard Phillips has been responsible in bringing to Washington representatives of the MNR and to organise on its behalf massive publicity and campaigns of misinformation, the source said.

"They have also received powerful backing in Congress from Republican Representatives

like Mr Dan Burton from the state of Indiana and Senator Malcolm Wallop from Wyoming who also successfully 'marketed' the Angolan rebel leader Jonas Savimbi and his UNITA movement."

Zimbabwean diplomatic representatives said they were keeping an eye on developments in Washington. American diplomatic sources however, dismissed the announcement of the rebel alliance as being of little significance in the USA and that it amounted to no more than rightwing propaganda.

The regional watches added that there would be little appetite for such



rebel causes in Washington, given the fiasco and furore over the Iranian arms scandal and illegal funding by the US of the Contras in Central America.