

Mozambique seeks expulsion of Renamo official

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HARARE

Ottawa asked to explain refugee decision

The Government of Mozambique wants Ottawa to expel or silence a member of a Mozambican terrorist group who was admitted to Canada last year as a political refugee.

Francisco Madeira, Mozambique's Ambassador to Zimbabwe, said yesterday that his Government has issued a formal request that Ottawa explain why it granted political asylum to Francisco Nota Moises, information chief of a violent rebel organization called the Mozambican National Resistance and known by its Portuguese acronym Renamo.

"I have received instructions to make a full presentation to the Canadians," Mr. Madeira said. "We consider Canada a friendly country . . . and we are now surprised that Canada would admit a representative of a terrorist organization. We are very concerned."

He said the request for an explanation of Mr. Nota Moises's admission to Canada would be delivered this morning in a note to the Canadian High Commission in Zimbabwe, which also serves as Ottawa's embassy to Mozambique.

Mr. Madeira said the note does not constitute a diplomatic protest, but is basically a request for information. He said his Government will decide whether to issue a formal protest after Ottawa has been given an opportunity to explain its decision.

"We wish him to be expelled from Canada, or at least to be stopped

from carrying out hostile acts against Mozambique from Canadian territory," Mr. Madeira said.

Mozambican security officials had long been aware of Mr. Nota Moises' presence in Kenya, where he lived before his admission to Canada. He is said to have belonged to a little-known branch of Renamo that has been active in Nairobi, the Kenyan capital, for many years, raising money, distributing propaganda and infiltrating Renamo personnel into Mozambique via South Africa.

"We were aware of his presence in Nairobi and of his movements," said a knowledgeable Mozambican source who requested anonymity. "We know who this person is."

The source said that Kenyan authorities knowingly permit Renamo officials to operate in their country and that Mozambique has for some time been exerting quiet diplomatic pressure to bring this situation to an end.

"It is definitely true that the Kenyans are supporting the bandits," he said, employing the term that Mozambicans routinely use for the armed rebels. "We know what the Kenyans are doing."

A report released by the U.S. State Department in April accuses Renamo of killing at least 100,000 Mozambican civilians during the past two years and of a systematic campaign of rape, torture and terror. Renamo has been actively supported by white-ruled South Afri-

ca in the past, but Pretoria says this is no longer so.

Mr. Nota Moises has said he fled Africa for Canada because he feared Mozambican Government assassins. He denies that Renamo is a terrorist organization and says the U.S. report does not provide a true picture of events in Mozambique.

The Globe and Mail reported last week that Mr. Nota Moises, the secretary of Renamo's department of information, arrived in Canada last August after being admitted as a political refugee by Canadian immigration officials based in Kenya.

A spokesman for the External Affairs Department expressed surprise last week over Mr. Nota Moises' activities on behalf of Renamo. But a source in Nairobi familiar with the case said there were many aspects of his background that should have raised questions about his application for asylum.

He had earlier been denied refugee status by Kenyan authorities and was not classified as a refugee by the office of the United Nations High Commission for Refugees in Nairobi, although UNHCR officials kept an extensive file on him.

The decision to admit him to Canada was made after a refugee committee at St. Andrew's Catholic Church in Victoria offered to sponsor him. A spokesman for the committee has said it had little understanding of his involvement with Renamo.

A security check by the Canadian Security Intelligence Service apparently either failed to turn up evidence of the Renamo ties or did not interpret them as grounds for denying him entry.

Both External Affairs Minister Joe Clark and CSIS spokesman Gerald Cummings have refused to say whether Canada knew about Mr. Nota Moises' Renamo connections.

However, in a letter to The Globe and Mail, Mr. Nota Moises says that "during the interview in Nairobi for resettlement in Canada, I made a lengthy statement of my connections with Renamo. It is my belief that the statement was passed on to higher authorities."

Since his arrival in Victoria last year, Mr. Nota Moises has set up a Renamo information office and now writes letters to the editors of major North American publications and issues press releases on Renamo letterhead.

Mr. Madeira said yesterday that his Government is assuming for the moment that Mr. Nota Moises' admission to Canada was a mistake, because the Canadian Government has otherwise shown "sympathy, commitment and friendship" toward Mozambique.

Meanwhile, a Mozambican source in Zimbabwe said yesterday that the Kenya-based branch of Renamo continues to operate with the full knowledge and consent of the Kenyan Government.

The source identified the key figure in the Kenya-based operation as a U.S.-born man using the name Leo Milas who managed in the early 1960s to "infiltrate" the top ranks of Frelimo — the Portuguese acronym for the Mozambican Liberation Front — while it was fighting to end Portuguese rule.

In 1975, when Mozambique achieved independence, Frelimo assumed power, and it has ruled the former colony ever since. Mr. Milas, however, was expelled from the organization in August of 1964. The source said Mr. Milas is now employed as the information officer of a UN agency based in Nairobi, while heading Renamo operations there.

The same source said that Mr. Nota Moises was born and raised in the northern Mozambican province of Tete, where he attended a Roman Catholic school taught by a local priest named Rev. Mateus Gwenjere.

Later, both men became associated with Frelimo and went into exile in neighboring Tanzania, where the nationalist movement was based. Father Gwenjere began teaching in Dar es Salaam, the Tanzanian capital, at a secondary school for the children of exiled Frelimo activists.

In 1969, he and Mr. Nota Moises allegedly were involved in an attempt to split Frelimo and were forced to flee. Mr. Nota Moises ended up in Kenya, where he lived until his departure for Canada last year, except for a period between 1983 and 1986 when he worked for the U.S. Embassy in Swaziland.