

Canadians distressed by presence of MNR rep AIM News Bull. (144) 7/88
Canadian Ambassador to Mozambique Roger Bull told AIM on 24 June that he was "deeply distressed" by the presence of Francisco Nota Moises, an MNR "secretary of information", in Canada.

Mr Bull, who is based in Harare, was in Maputo to sign Canada's first bilateral agreement with Mozambique.

He said he first heard that Nota Moises was in Canada from AIM's Mozambique News, in a report on the Maputo press conference in March given by Paulo Oliveira, former spokesman for the MNR in Portugal.

Mr Bull said he then consulted his government in Canada and asked for information about Nota Moises' whereabouts and activities.

When the United States government released the Gersony report on Mozambican refugees, which details the atrocities committed by the South African backed MNR, a Canadian newspaper, the Globe and Mail, wrote an editorial critical of the MNR, recalled Mr Bull.

Nota Moises responded from Victoria, British Columbia, in a letter to the editor of the Globe and Mail "and this was the first time I heard that he was representing Renamo as information secretary", said Mr Bull.

Since then, Bull has learned that Nota Moises had been working for the BBC monitoring Portuguese broadcasts in Kenya and that in 1983 he was transferred to Swaziland, where he later worked for the United States Information Services. He returned to Kenya in 1986 and from there was in contact with a church group in Victoria who agreed to "sponsor" him for Canadian immigration.

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Canadian news reports have stated that Nota Moises has been given residence and refugee status by the Canadian government.

Mr Bull said that as far as he knows Canada has no official policy on the immigration status of members of the MNR. However, he noted that Canadian Immigration does not normally ask refugees about their political views. Yet "we also do not consider people who are actively working for a political movement, particularly one we disapprove of, as refugees", he stressed.

The case has gotten widespread news coverage in Canada and both the New Democratic and Liberal Parties (in opposition to the ruling Conservative Party) have brought it up in Parliament, in essence asking what a person "who's associated with a gang of murderers is doing in Canada", as Mr Bull put it.

When asked whether Nota Moises had any support for his position in Canada, Mr Bull answered that "even the people who sponsored him seem to be surprised and embarrassed".

Mr Bull said he'd received an official letter from the Mozambican government on 17 June "asking us what happened and expressing their concern. I've conveyed this to my government and am awaiting a reply."