
MOZAMBIQUE: STRAUSS' FRIEND

Africa Confidential has acquired a document suggesting that there has been 'direct contact' between officials of the West German Christian Social Union (CSU) and Afonso Dhlakama, leader of the Mozambican National Resistance (RENAMO).

The information is contained in a letter from Dieter Schmidt, director of the CSU office for foreign relations, to Francisco Nota Moises, RENAMO information chief, at an address in Nairobi. In the letter, dated 26 June 1987, Schmidt turns down Moises' request for an interview with CSU leader Franz Josef Strauss. He adds 'we are already in direct contact with the president and commander in chief of your organization in the "Casa Banana" - RENAMO's bush headquarters.

There are not known to be any telephone facilities in RENAMO bush headquarters at Casa Banana, although Dhlakama and his staff have a good radio communication network linking them to unit commanders and to the headquarters of the South African Reconnaissance Commando at Phalaborwa in the Transvaal. The most likely explanation for Schmidt's statement is that the CSU had corresponded directly with Dhlakama or that a CSU delegate had met Dhlakama in person. The West German government in which the CSU is a coalition partner denies having formal contacts with RENAMO.
