

Is it purely coincidental that Maputo has allowed another former RENAMO leader, who recently moved over to the government camp, to give evidence of continuing South African secret service aid to the rebel organisation at a time when the South African Defence Forces (SADF) delivered large quantities of supplies (on November 28) to the Mozambican army to protect the Cahora Bassa cables? It is highly unlikely. Mozambican authorities are very worried (and want it to be known) about the increase in RENAMO operations in the south of the country since the meeting in Songo last September between Presidents **Joaquim Chissano** and **Pieter Botha**. Electricity cables and railway lines in the south of Mozambique have been damaged several times over the past few weeks (ION n° 357) and an attack on November 28 by RENAMO against the village of Chiboene, 35 kilometres from Maputo, left 32 people dead.

The Mozambican government continues to wonder if Pretoria is speaking with a forked tongue or if, as is more likely, political power in South Africa is unable to control factions within the secret services which share extreme-right ideologies. As **Chanjunga Chivaca Joao**, the former member in charge of mobilisation in RENAMO's Lisbon office who defected last week, told journalists, there is no question but that members of the South African secret services are extremely unhappy with the re-activation of the good neighbourliness pact between the two countries, and that they are continuing their aid to RENAMO. According to Mr. Joao, however, RENAMO is assisted by secret service agents from other countries, specifically West Germany and Kenya, where the rebel organisation has offices.

Despite such statements, South Africa has every intention of using its assistance in Mozambique to pursue its campaign of seduction towards Western nations, the Soviet Union and Africa, with a view to discouraging economic sanctions. This is the reason behind the accord which Pretoria is preparing to sign with Angola and Cuba and which will lead to independence for Namibia. The government has also openly declared its wish for a gradual release of **Nelson Mandela**, historic leader of the African National Congress (ANC). During the same week, it also authorised the unconditional release of **Zephania Mothopeng**, president of the Pan-African Congress of Azania, as well as another leading ANC figure, **Harry Gwala**. All of this came shortly after President Botha commuted the death sentences of the Sharpeville Six. In Mozambique, Pretoria sought maximum publicity by inviting 80 journalists to witness the supplies delivered on November 28, which will permit 1,500 Mozambican soldiers to be fed, shod, clothed, and equipped with radio equipment by South Africa, to protect the electricity cables bringing power from the Cahora Bassa hydro-electricity plant to South Africa. Mozambique, meanwhile, opted for a lower profile.