

## The human cost of the war

ICN '89, 1 March

According to a *UNICEF* document prepared with the collaboration of the Mozambique government, the war with the rebels of the *RENAMO* resistance group supported by South Africa has a toll so far of 600,000 victims. Of these, 494,000 are thought to be children who have died from the combined onslaught of malnutrition and the war.

The infant mortality rate in Mozambique has risen to 325-375 per 1000, among the highest in the world alongside Afghanistan and Angola. The number of orphaned and abandoned children has been estimated at 200,000. Between 1982 and 1987, *RENAMO* destroyed 822 health centres of which only 567 have been reconstructed.