

Tensions which have surfaced in the last few months between the Mozambican Prime Minister, **Mario Machungo** and the Minister for Defence, General **Alberto Chipande** over the amount of military spending provided for in the budget, have worsened over the past weeks. In January 1987, after the government introduced the economic reforms as requested by the IMF and the World Bank, Mario Machungo and the Finance Minister **Abdul Magid Osman**, insisted on the necessity for closer monitoring of military spending. Since the creation of the post of Prime Minister in 1986, Defence, Security and Foreign Affairs have remained the ministries to be directly under the control of the President.

Once the International Monetary Fund had made its recommendations, Messrs Machungo and Osman stepped up the pressure on the Ministry of Defence in an effort to reduce the number of soldiers in the government forces from 50,000 to 30,000 and, at the same time, to reinforce the controls on the Armed Forces spending. Apparently, these measures affected the higher echelons of the military hierarchy and the lower ranked officers, whose wages, according to the government's confidential estimates, accounted for a disproportionate amount of military salaries each year. The soldiers, however, were only ever paid infrequently, but they were still expected to continue to fight in often difficult logistic conditions.

The military chiefs, including the Minister of Defence, were extremely vexed by the measures imposed by the government and accused Messrs Machungo and Osman of being opposed to a "war economy" which should render defence a budget priority. Some members of the military even blamed the failure to defeat RENAMO on the austerity which the two Ministers had managed to impose on the country's economy. Last September, relations between General Chipande on one hand and Mario Machungo and Hagid Osman on the other, deteriorated further after the two Ministers refused to disburse 600 million meticaïs (about 700,000 dollars) which they intended to spend on celebrations commemorating the Mozambican Armed Forces' 25th anniversary.

During the last Central Committee meeting, the question of the budget for Defence was put very crudely by an Army captain, "Comrade President, how can we win the war if questions of defence are settled unilaterally by the Prime Minister and the Finance Minister?" The question was fiercely debated by the Committee and Lieutenant-General **Raimundo Pachinwapa** asked Messrs Machungo and Chipande, "to come forward and openly discuss the problems which exist between the two of you and to establish the reasons why the Army is so ill-equipped."

Last December, during the People's Assembly, Major General **Eduardo Nihia** accused the government led by Mario Machungo of corruption and nepotism. Mr Machungo immediately offered to resign. However, within the Central Committee and Parliament, the general

feeling which prevails that corruption within the Armed Forces is only getting worse. This is how Mario Machungo and Hagid Osman managed to reduce defence spending in the provisional budget for 1990 to 36% (280 million meticaïs) of the overall budget as against 42% in 1989. And while all the discussions are going on, the discontent of the soldiers who have not been paid since September 1989, continues to grow. 10N 131190