

## MOZAMBIQUE: Expatriate problems

According to the Mozambican daily newspaper, *Noticias* of January 8, over 700 Mozambican students were involved in events which caused the death of one person and in which several others were injured on December 23 in Cuba. All seven hundred are to be repatriated. This decision was made by Mozambique's Minister of Health, **Leonardo Simao** who recently led a delegation to Cuba to investigate the clashes which took place between Mozambican and Cuban students. Several Mozambican members of the academic staff whose behaviour was considered to be "inappropriate" are also to be sent home. The students protested and demonstrated, calling for their grants to be paid in currency. Meanwhile, more and more Mozambican workers in what was East Germany, employed under the terms of the 1979 cooperation agreement between the two countries, have been returning to their home since the two Germanies were reunified in the autumn and their contracts suspended. According to the Mozambican ministry of Labour, about 4,000 of them have already returned and 11,000 more will be repatriated before March 1991.

I.O.N.- *The disintegration of the Eastern European regimes has hit Mozambique in various ways. Maputo has already announced that aid from these countries has been reduced and it fears the Soviet Union may review its oil delivery contract (ION N°454). The hurried and en masse return of the Mozambicans working in Germany only adds to the country's problems. Only 40 per cent of their wages have been paid by the companies they were working for in Germany while they were under contract. Maputo directly received, in their names the other 60 per cent and is today unable to pay them this remainder. Moreover, a significant devaluation in the Mozambican currency, the metical in the past few years has made the operation more complicated from a basic calculation point of view. The last weekend of December, these workers demonstrated in Maputo, bringing the city centre to a standstill, demanding their wages and denouncing the administration's bribe attempts which they were prey to. In accordance with the cooperation agreements with then East Germany, these people should have been given jobs corresponding to their qualifications in industrial projects set up with help of funds made available by the East European country, on their return to Mozambique. These projects have never materialized, in particular because of the civil war. And the ruined Mozambican industrial fibre does not offer any prospective employment to these qualified workers.*