

Enriched uranium scandal

According to a source close to the former Mozambican finance minister, **Abdul Magid Osman**, the ex-official did try to sell enriched uranium produced in South Africa to then East Germany in 1989. When this information leaked in Mozambique on 24 December, the erstwhile minister denied it flatly. But, he had already admitted to the President **Joaquim Chissano** and his council of ministers that it was in fact true. The same source claims that Mozambique accepted to act as an intermediary between the South Africans to sell its enriched uranium to the eastern part of today's Germany. At that time, Abdul Magid Osman was the government strong man under prime minister, **Mario Machungo** and the main Mozambican representative with the international financial institutions. But he did not have sufficient authority to carry out the operation successfully. As a result, he is said to have called on another top minister, who was also a member of the *Frelimo* executive, to do the job in his place. Once he realised that the operation was not going at all smoothly, Abdul Magid Osman used his function as co-president of the joint Mozambican-East German Cooperation Commission, to write to the East German authorities directly. The letter that had passed through the hands of an East German firm in Maputo specialised in this type of transaction, was discovered by the new authorities after unification of the two Germanies in October 1990. But they only managed to start investigating the Mozambican government about the matter five weeks ago.