EEC to help protect projects

The EEC has agreed to contribute to the cost of ensuring the security of its projects in Mozambique.

The recent signing of a ECU 60 million (\$72.2 million) aid agreement means that all of the EEC's third Lome Convention indicative programme for Mozambique should have been committed by mid-1989. The agreement was signed on 9 November by Andre Auclert of the European Development Fund (EDF) and Trade Minister Manuel Aranda da Silva. Funds will support commodity imports, training, rural infrastructure, agricultural projects and fisheries. an EDF official told AED.

Another EEC official clarified the military element of the agreement. The EEC, he said, "is prepared to assist the Mozambican government in improving the security of our projects by way of logistical support towards the civil cost of the protection of our projects."

Specifically, the EEC would contribute to the cost of feeding, clothing and administering the government forces providing security for EEC projects. This would not, the official emphasised, include the provision of uniforms or military equipment and spares.

The EDF official said the only specific project identified so far by the EEC delegation in Maputo was a ECU 2.3 million (\$2.8 million) proposal, to be jointly financed with the Netherlands, for further training in mathematics and science subjects for secondary students about to start studies at Maputo's Eduardo Mondlane university.

AED 27/11/87