

SOUTH AFRICA: Portuguese with an eye on Maputo ION 16/2/91 ; 5

A dozen Portuguese from Madeira have been murdered in the last few months of bloody violence which has swept through parts of South Africa. Part of the Portuguese community resident in the Cape (600,000 of whom 300,000 are from Madeira), are already taking the security question into consideration, and see it as "very worrying." Madeira's regional authorities who could not hope to cope with a return to the island of all these people, recently approached the government in Mozambique to suggest a solution involving its country as a possible host should violence be exacerbated in South Africa. In December 1990, **Miguel de Sousa**, vice-president of Madeira visited Maputo to negotiate "a safe alternative." According to Mr de Sousa, quoted by Portuguese weekly *Expresso* of February 9, "the South African government has already shown interest in this approach." At the beginning of February, the president of the autonomous region of Madeira, **Alberto Jaoa Jardim** met the Mozambican minister of foreign affairs, **Pascoal Mocumbi**, and planned to accompany, a delegation of Madeira businessmen to South Africa and Maputo in May.

I.O.N.- Portuguese people living in South Africa may thus become vectors of South African investment strategy in Mozambique. Unless they have already become an obstacle to the South African Blacks' projects for social advancement. Many of these exiles are in fact middle men in trade circles which puts them in situations of immediate contact with the black population and its frustrations. But the idea of their finding a possible home in Mozambique will meet with the opposition of the black "integrists" who are very well represented among Mozambique's political leaders (ION N°450). A sentiment of this kind may be shared with some elements of the Renamo. With the possibility of elections in the not too distant future, this movement is being careful to erase the role of former Portuguese colonials and Rhodesian military in its creation. And this to the extent that it has recently stopped using the emblem, which was similar to that used in the past by **Jorge Jardim** to promote the image of colonial Mozambique.