

# BAOBAB NOTES



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## Talks: Renamo Wants to Amend Mozambican Constitution

The current impasse in the talks between the Mozambique Government and Renamo has been caused by Renamo demanding that the Parliament resulting from multi-party elections should, as its first task, re-write Mozambique's Constitution. Italy, the Catholic Church and US diplomats are trying to move the two delegations beyond the impasse. (Mozambique News Review 2/27/92)

## Italian NGO's Form a "Peace in Mozambique" Campaign

Fourteen Italian non-governmental organizations have joined to form a "Peace in Mozambique" effort designed "to sensitize Italian public opinion about the war and to mobilize support for economic and social reconstruction after a ceasefire." (Mozambique News Review 2/27/92)

## Red Cross Military Aid to Renamo

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the only humanitarian organization operating in Mozambique with official ties to Renamo, has again been accused of providing military aid to Renamo. Six Mozambican secondary school students who had fled a Renamo base this past December have given detailed information about how Renamo is getting combat rations and military uniforms from the ICRC. (Mozambique News Review 2/27/92)

## Private Health Care in Mozambique

In a controversial move, Mozambican Parliament agreed to reinstate private health care, which had been outlawed since independence from Portugal in 1975. Beginning April 1, it will be legal for Mozambicans and foreigners to own private clinics and hospitals and to run ambulance services. Critics of the change argue that the few qualified doctors (the country has less than 200) are likely to leave the public sector for private clinics in urban centers, leaving rural citizens isolated and without care. (Facts and Reports 2/21/92)

## Ivory Trade Still Flourishes

Illegal trade in ivory involving Mozambican government forces, Renamo rebels, corrupt Zimbabwean army officers and South Africans flourishes at the borders where the 3 countries meet. According to a research analyst for the Washington-based Environmental Investigation Agency, some Zimbabwean army officers who went to Mozambique to guard their country's trade routes and to fight Renamo rebels are buying ivory from both Renamo rebels and some Mozambican troops which they later sell to South Africa. Politically the three armies are regarded as mutually hostile, but at this point, it is business at its best. (New Africa, 3/92)

At the Convention of International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) held in Japan from March 2, Zimbabwe, South Africa, Botswana, Malawi, and Namibia attempted to relax restrictions on elephant trade. However, they were met with great resistance from environmental groups. (New York Times 2/11/92)

## A Tribute to Samora Machel by Aika Ruth Elingwinga

Samora Machel Our Hero  
Sleep well and good  
Heroes never die  
They just sleep well and good

The fighter of our freedom  
Your spirit is with us  
We shall finish what you began  
So just sleep well and good

Our fearless fighter  
rest is necessary after hard work  
So just like Lumumba and Cabral  
Neto and Martin Luther King  
Our grandfather Sobukwe  
Sleep well and good Samora

Aluta continua!  
We shall never hesitate  
The heroes are watching us  
Let's put more effort  
Africa must be free  
Our blood shall liberate Africa  
And just as you believed Samora  
'TUTASHINDA!!!'

\*Tutashinda means "we shall win" in the Swahili language of East Africa.

## Canadian Observer Mission Statement Urges Peace

In its seven recommendations, the mission:

1. Demanded global pressure on Renamo to negotiate in good faith and to cut off all external support from South African, Kenyan, Malawian and private US sources;
2. Called for mobilization of international support for the dislocated and refugees, especially the 250,000 orphans of the war;
3. Asked for extra resources for the drought-stricken provinces of Manica and Sofala;
4. Urged commitment by international agencies to ensure safe delivery of emergency food supplies;
5. Questioned whether structural adjustment programs of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund can be effective in a country where 40% of the budget is consumed by war expenditure, resulting in massive cuts in social expenditure on health and education; and said that when peace comes economic reconstruction should be based on the needs of the Mozambican people;
6. Said donor countries and multilateral agencies should cancel Mozambique's unmanageable external debt following the example of Canada and Britain which have already cancelled their bilateral debt;
7. Observed that efforts should be redoubled to support community-based organizations, women's groups, co-operatives, trade unions and other independent organizations. (Southern African Research and Documentation Centre, 2/92)

## Drought Hits Southern Africa

South Africa is currently facing its most serious drought since 1933. Corn farmers in Bethal, one of the largest corn-producing regions in the country, have already lost between 80 and 100% of their crops. Facing this disaster, Pretoria is considering drought aid for farmers. Without such aid, 2000-3000 of the 17000 farmers could be forced off the land this year.

Zimbabwe expects to have the lowest corn and sugar cane crops in many years, with far reaching implications. Although Zimbabwe is usually a net exporter of sugar, it may be forced to import 400,000 tons sugar, as well as 7500,000 tons of corn, to meet domestic needs. (Facts and Reports 2/21/92)

## Renamo Killings Continue

- Renamo have killed at least 80 people from late January to early February in Inhambane Province. These figures are in addition to the February 1 massacre of 40 people on the outskirts of Inhambane city, and the killing of 40 cashew harvesters in Inharrime.

On February 7, Renamo attacked another village of Inharrime, but were met with a strong defense from the villagers, who forced Renamo to retreat and leave the bodies of 7 bandits behind.

- In attacks along the Beira rail corridor, Renamo continues to violate the partial cease-fire agreement signed December 1, 1990 in Rome. In the agreement, Renamo pledged to halt all attacks against the Beira and Limpopo corridors to Zimbabwe. In return, Zimbabwean troops operating in Mozambique were redeployed within the corridors.

Recent violations of this ceasefire include a February 10 attack on two suburbs of Chimoio during which 9 were killed and 3 wounded and a February 18 killing in an ambush on the Beira - Zimbabwe road. (Mozambique Information Office 2/27/92)

## British Anti-Apartheid Movement Tells Foreign Office "Aid Front Line States"

On January 8, the powerful Anti-Apartheid Movement (AAM) of England presented a major memorandum to Mrs. Lynda Chalder, Minister of Overseas Development. The memorandum puts the case for the region to be treated as an interdependent whole and enunciates ways the British government can help the people of the region.

In particular, the AAM memorandum asks the British government to:

- Put pressure on South Africa to hand back Walvis Bay to Namibia;
- Support the Namibian government in its efforts to conserve and develop its fish stocks;
- Put pressure on President de Klerk to outlaw all forms of support for Renamo in Mozambique;
- Call for an end to US covert support for Unita in Angola;
- Increase British aid for humanitarian aid and postwar reconstruction in both these countries;
- Maintain the UN mandatory arms embargo, including nuclear sanctions, until a democratic government is in place in South Africa;
- Increase its support for the Southern Africa Development Coordination Conference (SADCC) to help ensure that there is balanced development, stability and peace in the region without aggravating the historic tendencies towards South African domination. (Anti-Apartheid News (London) Jan-Feb 1992)