

Where the bandits get their cash

Special Correspondent

WESTERN policy towards the Frelimo Government in Mozambique is characterised by a certain ambiguity.

The member states of the European Community (EC — Belgium, Holland, Luxemburg, France, West-Germany, Denmark, Italy, Ireland, Britain and Greece — on February 12th 1985, in response to an appeal from the Mozambican foreign minister, Joaquim Chissano, strongly condemned outside interference in the internal affairs of Mozambique following the Nkomati accord.

This condemnation was based on the EC's assessment that the MNR continues to receive support from overseas.

The Europeans acknowledge reports that the MNR is receiving financial assistance through Iranian, Saudi Arabian and Brazilian groups and that political connections lead all the way back to the former colonial capital Lisbon. Informed sources

suggest this support is considerable, amounting to approximately US \$30 million. The precise origin of this financial support is however, unclear. The Europeans acknowledge that support comes from within certain member states of the EC but leave the precise source vague. The Europeans further acknowledge the involvement of right-wing American organisations.

The situation is a delicate one. For these rightwing groupings who channel support to such groups as the MNR and Unita are also extremely powerful within governments.

A recent meeting of West German Protestant Churches passed

a resolution to "protest against the call coming from the ranks of the CDU-CBU the ruling coalition in West Germany, to make the MNR a partner for discussions". They called upon the West German Government to break off all existing relations with the MNR and to prevent any further contacts. This call was made against the background of MNR attacks on German-funded development projects in Mozambique and a CBU-financed MNR propaganda tour of West Germany. Although the EC as a whole accepts that the MNR was created by the Rhodesian Central Intelligence Organisation, the "New Right" seeks to portray it as a "genuine indigenous anti-communist lib-

eration movement". Such propaganda is closely geared to South African destabilisation, which is hardly surprising given the close personal relationships which exist between such Western political figures as the CBU leader Franz Joseph Strauss and the South African State President, P. W. Botha.

In March leading representatives of the New Right in both Europe and the United States met in London to discuss the Soviet "threat to world security". There, they heard Jeanne Kirkpatrick, the former US representative to the UN, call upon those assembled to be outspoken in their support for anti-communist freedom fighters in Mozambique, Angola, Afghanistan and Nicaragua. It is reported that over 40 representatives of these anti-communist groups were in attendance and engaged in informal discussions both amongst themselves and leading rightwing Western politicians.

This meeting preceded the June, 1985 conference in the Angolan bush to form the Democratic International. Here, Unita, the Afghan Mujahedin and Nicaraguan Democratic Force met under the auspices of Citizens for America to form a pact against what they called "Russian Imperialism". Citizens for America's precise status is unclear. It enjoys White House backing but not official American backing. Lewis Lehrman the Official Citizens for America spokesman read a personal message of support from President Reagan to the Conference. Citizens for America is one of a number of rightwing Western organisations whose Cold War obsession with communism is leading them to interfere in the internal affairs of independent African states such as Mozambique and Angola. Elements of the CDU-CBU coalition in Germany support the MNR but such institutes as the European Institute for Security Matters (which includes such notable figures as Leo Tindemans, the current Belgium Foreign Minister) are increasingly showing an interest in organisations such as the MNR and Unita. The presence of so many influential right-wing leaders on the fringes of such terrorist organisations must be a main source of concern to Southern African leaders.

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