

AFRICA FILE

Dhlakama's letter thanks Moi for sending team to MNR congress

MAPUTO.

THE commander-in-chief of the MNR bandits, Afonso Dhlakama, wrote a personal letter to Kenyan President Daniel arap Moi thanking him for sending a delegation to attend the second MNR congress held in December 1991 inside a bandit-occupied zone in central Mozambique.

The letter, a copy of which has now been leaked to AIM, also invited the Kenyan government to send representatives to a meeting planned for January with the Swazi authorities.

The letter is typed on the MNR's letterhead, is dated 20 December 1991, and is signed by Dhlakama himself.

It is addressed to "His Excellency, The President, Republic of Kenya",

and is written in extremely ungrammatical English.

Thus Dhlakama's first paragraph reads: "I have this time to inform Your Excellency I am very glad to have responded to my invitation to attend second congress to send the delegation to join us, thank you very much Your Excellency, Sir."

Dhlakama then claimed that he was on the verge of winning the war, and was about to hold a meeting with the Swazi government. This meeting would "discuss about arms, border and other things concerning war because we are going to launch big offensefire to Mozambique government next March to take over the government". (Presumably by "offensefire", Dhlakama means "offensive.")

He claimed the meeting with the Swazi authorities was scheduled for January 3-4 at a place he named as "Msisi government farm".

Dhlakama told Mr Moi: "I would like to invite your government to attend this meeting with our neighbour country to give them guarantee about activity without any fear."

The letter ends with Dhlakama wishing Mr Moi "a happy new year, good health and long live".

Meanwhile, bandits are paying a rightwing American lawyer no less than US\$40 000 a month to advise them, particularly on constitutional matters.

The lawyer concerned is Mr Bruce Fein, who is linked to the conservative think-tank, the Heritage Foundation, and writes for the rightwing

daily newspaper, The Washington Times.

AIM has acquired copies of the papers that Mr Fein filed with the US Department of Justice, as required under the Foreign Agents Registration Act. This law ensures that all US citizens who work as lobbyists or propagandists for foreign governments or organisations must register and provide details of their activities, including payments.

Mr Fein, whose registration number with the Justice Department is 4546, registered on July 22 1991, describing himself as a counsellor to Mr Dhlakama. He declared: "I am to receive US\$40 000 a month indefinitely plus out of pocket expenses in exchange for advising and writing a political agenda for MNR and gener-

ating public support and legislation in furtherance of its political aspirations in Mozambique."

By then, Mr Fein had already received two payments from the MNR, amounting to US\$145 000. Mr Fein said he received the first payment of US\$25 000 in January 1991, for writing a draft Mozambican constitution for the MNR.

The second payment of US\$120 000 was received in July for "preparation of Dhlakama papers explaining MNR constitution".

Another activity he mentioned was "advising the organisation regarding negotiations in Rome, Italy, with the incumbent government in Mozambique, popularly named Fretilimo". — Ziana-Pana.