

# Mozambican rebel official's body found outside Lisbon

LISBON, Portugal (AP) — The body of Mozambican rebel official Evo Fernandes was found yesterday beside a country road outside Lisbon, four days after his wife reported he was kidnapped after meeting a Mozambican security agent, police said.

A television reporter at the scene said Mr. Fernandes appeared to have been shot in the head.

The 44-year-old victim was a founder and former secretary-general of the Mozambique National Resistance, also known by the Portuguese acronym RENAMO, which has been fighting a guerrilla war since 1977 to topple the Marxist government of Mozambique.

Mozambique, on the southeast coast of Africa and with a population of more than 14 million, gained independence from Portugal in 1975.

Estevao Adriano Policarpo, owner of a windmill nearby, found Mr. Fer-

nandes' body in undergrowth about 15 feet from a country road north of Cascais, 20 miles west of Lisbon, where the rebel official lived, police said.

The mill owner said Mr. Fernandes' head was covered with what appeared to be a hood or a shirt.

Police had sought Mr. Fernandes since his wife said he disappeared after dining at a Cascais restaurant Sunday night with a man she said was an agent of the Mozambican security police.

Yvette Fernandes said the man, whom she identified as Alexandre Xavier Chagas, and an unidentified male companion met Mr. Fernandes to discuss possible peace talks between the rebels and the Mozambican government.

Agence France-Presse quoted Mrs. Fernandes as saying her husband left handwritten notes about a

secret delegation sent to the Portuguese capital by Mozambican President Joaquim Chissano.

[Identified with RENAMO's hard-line "military" wing, the former spokesman was not popular with rebel "peacemakers" based in Washington, she reportedly said.]

Mr. Fernandes was secretary-general of RENAMO from 1983 to 1986. He was later demoted to head of the guerrillas' research department, but observers said he remained an influential figure within the group.

In February 1987, Paolo Oliveira, RENAMO spokesman in Lisbon, announced Mr. Fernandes' demotion and said Mr. Fernandes was being removed from the group's National Council and relegated to the status of ordinary member.

The rebel group accused Mr. Fernandes of issuing false information, misappropriating funds, promoting

himself and creating divisions within the organization.

[Mr. Oliveira, who defected from RENAMO last month, told a press conference in Maputo on March 23 that in mid-1987, Mr. Fernandes returned to prominence in the movement, the French news agency said.]

[Mr. Oliveira attributed this to South African pressure, alleging that he was trusted there and was one of the people used by Pretoria to guarantee South African control over the rebels.]

[Mr. Oliveira described a power struggle for control of RENAMO between what he called a "Pretoria-Bonn axis" and a "Washington-Paris axis." AFP said.]

A Portuguese businessman, Manuel Sacramento Guadencio, said Monday that Mr. Chagas brought Mr. Fernandes to his office and asked him to help arrange a secret location for talks about a possible reconcili-

ation between rebels and government.

The official Mozambican news agency AIM said Tuesday no one named Alexandre Chagas worked for the Mozambican security police. AIM quoted unidentified observers in Mozambique's capital, Maputo, as saying Mr. Fernandes' disappearance probably was the result of "internal conflicts that have wracked" RENAMO.

The Mozambican Embassy in Lisbon on Monday denied involvement in any kidnapping. Third Secretary Fernando Abel said, "We have no knowledge of this."

Portugal's foreign minister, Joao de Deus Pinheiro, yesterday condemned the killing of Mr. Fernandes.

RENAMO reportedly was set up by the secret police of what was then Rhodesia in 1977. South Africa replaced Rhodesia as the rebels' back-

ers when Rhodesia became black-ruled Zimbabwe in 1980.

Mr. Fernandes headed a delegation that represented the rebels in unsuccessful peace talks with Mozambique's Frelimo government in Pretoria, South Africa in 1984. Earlier that year, South Africa agreed to halt aid to the rebels after signing a mutual non-aggression pact with Mozambique. The white-led Pretoria government denies Mozambican charges it still supports RENAMO despite the accord.

The Mozambican army is backed by troops from neighboring Zimbabwe, Tanzania and Malawi.

Mr. Fernandes' predecessor as RENAMO secretary-general, Orlando Cristina, was assassinated in April 1983 in the Pretoria area. Some reports attributed the murder to factional struggles within the rebels. RENAMO blamed Mozambican security agents.

Mr. Fernandes, a Portuguese citizen, was twice married and had six children.