

## MOZAMBIQUE: Three arrested over Fernandes death ION 7/5/88 p 4

Three Portuguese citizens suspected of involvement in the murder of the former secretary-general of the Mozambican rebel *Renamo* movement, **Evo Fernandes**, whose body was found near Lisbon on April 21, were arrested last week in France and Morocco, Portuguese police and military sources said. All three were subject to an international arrest warrant and a request for extradition by the Portuguese authorities. **Alexandre Chagas** and **Joaquim da Conceição Messias** were arrested in Casablanca on April 29 and **Manuel Jorge Pinto** in Paris on April 30.

According to sources close to the French intelligence service, Mr da Costa is known to be a member of the Portuguese secret police, the SNASP. His arrest was said to have been carried out by the RAID, the special police anti-terrorist squad attached to the interior ministry and not the French counter-espionage agency.

Alexandre Chagas, who dined with Mr Fernandes on the day of his disappearance, is also said to be a SNASP underground agent. He and his companion were expected to be put on trial soon in Morocco and extradited to Portugal in spite of the absence of an agreement to this effect between the two countries.

*I.O.N.- If these arrests provide proof in the near future of the involvement of the Mozambican secret service in the death of Evo Fernandes, the fact is expected to be played down, as Maputo and Lisbon are seeking to expand both their economic and military relations. Numerous former Portuguese colonists are preparing to return to Mozambique. In spite of the revelations of the former *Renamo* spokesman in Lisbon who defected to the government, **Paulo Oliveira**, of the aid provided to *Renamo* by high-ranking Portuguese officers (whose names he supplied), the Mozambican authorities have made it known that they prefer to maintain good relations with Portugal, especially as a tripartite agreement could be signed in Lisbon this month by South Africa, Mozambique and Portugal on the use of the Cahora Bassa dam.*

*However the SNASP did announce on May 2 the arrest in Maputo of three Portuguese whose identity was not disclosed. They were alleged to be planning a series of attacks in the city. The SNASP statement also reported the seizure of 200 kilos of explosives belonging to the same "terrorist group", three more members of which, also Portuguese, were still said to be at large.*