

**Mozambique: Portuguese diplomat expelled: Portuguese government's reaction (ME/0412 B/3-Text)** The Mozambican government has decided to declare Dr Jose Marcelino da Silva Pereira, trade attache at the Portuguese embassy in Maputo, persona non grata. This was disclosed today [18th March] by a spokesperson of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The source said that Jose Marcelino da Silva Pereira has been declared persona non grata for carrying out activities incompatible with his diplomatic status. The diplomat should leave Mozambique by 2400 [2200 gmt] on Wednesday [22nd March].

Rafael Custodio Marques, third secretary at the Mozambican embassy in Lisbon, has returned to Maputo after being declared persona non grata by the Portuguese government yesterday [17th March]. Commenting on the decision, Rafael Custodio Marques said that as a sovereign state, Portugal had the right to act in whatever way it deemed appropriate. However, he added that he wished the continuation of good relations between Mozambique and Portugal. He said: "I would also like to work towards an improvement of such relations."

On the murder of armed bandit ringleader Evo Fernandes in Lisbon, the Mozambican diplomat reiterated that Mozambique has never been involved in acts of terrorism, a practice which it has always condemned. (*Maputo home service in Portuguese 1400 gmt 18 Mar 89*)