

# Maputo rejects Lisbon call

The Government of Mozambique has refused to comply with a demand by Portugal that it withdraw diplomatic immunity for the Third Secretary at the Mozambique Embassy in Lisbon, Mr Rafael Custodias Marques, accused of involvement in the murder last April of Evo Fernández, the representative here of the Mozambique National Resistance movement (Renamo).

The Maputo Government said on Thursday that it would not comply because Mr Marques was not involved in her death.

Yesterday the Portuguese Foreign Ministry was debating

whether to expel Mr Marques. "We consider him guilty of involvement in the affair," a Foreign Ministry spokesman told *The Times*.

Earlier in the week Senhor Fernando Nogueira, the Foreign Minister, told Parliament that he would ask for diplomatic immunity to be lifted.

Mr Marques was named by Carlo Chagas, the confessed killer of Evo Fernández, as the intermediary between the Mozambique Embassy in Lisbon and the Maputo Government in employing the killers and arranging their escape.

According to charges brought against Chagas and

his confederate, Joaquín Mesias, they were first contacted by the Mozambique secret police in Maputo and given part payment in South African rands for the assassination of Fernández. They were paid a further £4,000 by Mozambiquan embassies in Paris and Lisbon, and were provided with an escape route to North Africa.

In Lisbon Chagas and his confederate contacted Fernández and invited him to dinner at Cascais, the beach resort near Lisbon where he lived. After dinner they enticed him into a car. He was shot six times and his body dumped.