## TO: OBSERVER FOREIGN NEWS SERVICE

BY-LINE: ROBIN WORSLEY

MAPUTO, 20 MARCH - MOZAMBIQUE'S POINT-BLANK REFUSAL LAST WEEK TO LIFT DIPLOMATIC IMMUNITY FROM TWO OF ITS EMBASSY STAFF MEMBERS IN FRANCE AND PORTUGAL AT LISBON'S REQUEST, IS THREATENING TO SPARK OFF A DIPLOMATIC ROW BETWEEN PORTUGAL AND ITS FORMER COLONY, WHICH COULD UPSET LISBON'S LONG-TERM AMBITION TO PLAY A MAJOR ROLE IN SOUTHERN AFRICAN AFFAIRS.

THE PORTUGUESE AUTHORITIES CLAIM TO HAVE DISCOVERED THAT RAFAEL DOMINGOS, THIRD SECRETARY IN THE MOZAMBICAN EMBASSY IN LISBON, AND AN UNNAMED PROTOCOL OFFICER FROM THE PARIS EMBASSY, WERE INVOLVED IN THE MURDER OF RENAMO REBEL CHIEF EVO FERNANDES EARLY LAST YEAR. BUT INFORMED SOURCES IN HARARE HAVE EXPRESSED DOUBTS OVER THE ABILITY OF THE NOTORIOUSLY ILL-ORGANIZED PORTUGUESE INTELLIGENCE SERVICES TO SORT OUT FACT FROM RUMOUR IN SUCH A COMPLEX CASE.

FERNANDES, WHOSE BULLET-RIDDLED BODY WAS FOUND DUMPED BY A ROADSIDE NEAR CASCAIS, A RESORT JUST OUTSIDE LISBON, IN APRIL LAST YEAR, WAS A PORTUGUESE CITIZEN OF GOAN EXTRACTION, WHO HAD WORKED FOR THE PORTUGUESE POLITICAL POLICE, PIDE, IN LOURENCO MARQUES AND BEIRA BEFORE INDEPENDENCE. HE PLAYED A HIGHLY VISIBLE ROLE IN LISBON AS SECRETARY-GENERAL AND SPOKESMAN FOR THE SHADOWY REBEL GROUP RENAMO, ALSO KNOWN AS THE MNR, BEFORE BEING SACKED IN INTERNAL STRUGGLES IN 1986.

FERNANDES DISAPPEARED ON THE EVENING OF 17 APRIL, APPARENTLY AFTER DINING WITH ALEXANDRE CHAGAS AND JOAQUIM DA CONCEICAO MESSIAS, BOTH PORTUGUESE CITIZENS AND FORMER RESIDENTS OF MOZAMBIQUE. HIS BODY WAS FOUND FIVE DAYS LATER.

THE ORGANIZATION HE WORKED FOR, RENAMO, HAD BEEN SET UP IN 1976 BY THE RHODESIAN SECRET SERVICE IN ORDER TO DESTABILIZE THE YOUNG MOZAMBICAN REPUBLIC. IT WAS TAKEN OVER BY SOUTH AFRICA IN 1980, AT THE TIME OF ZIMBABWEAN INDEPENDENCE. DESPITE SOUTH AFRICAN DISCLAIMERS, AND THE SIGNING OF THE NKOMATI ACCORD BETWEEN SOUTH AFRICA AND MOZAMBIQUE, EVIDENCE HAS CONTINUED TO SURFACE THAT PRETORIA HAS MAINTAINED ITS SUPPORT FOR THE GROUP, DESCRIBED BY THE MOZAMBICAN GOVERNMENT AS 'ARMED BANDITS.' THE PUBLICATION BY THE US STATE DEPARTMENT LAST YEAR OF THE GERSONY REPORT, DOCUMENTING SYSTEMATIC MURDERS, MUTILATIONS AND TERRORISM AGAINST THE CIVILIAN POPULATION BY THE MNR, SEVERELY DAMAGED THE GROUP'S INTERNATIONAL CREDIBILITY.

THE MNR HAS A HISTORY OF BLOODY INTERNAL FEUDING. SINCE 1980, SEVERAL OF ITS LEADERS - ORLANDO CRISTINA, COMMANDANT LUKE, THE BOMBA BROTHERS, MATEUS LOPES AND JOAO ATAIDE AMONG OTHERS - HAVE BEEN KILLED OR HAVE DISAPPEARED IN THESE STRUGGLES, AND THE MOVEMENT'S CHIEF, AFONSO DLAKAMA, HAS STATED PUBLICLY THAT HE HAS ESCAPED SEVERAL ASSASSINATION ATTEMPTS.

DESPITE PERSISTENT SPECULATION IN THE PORTUGUESE PRESS OF

POSSIBLE MOZAMBICAN INVOLVEMENT IN THE MURDER, THE MOZAMBICAN RULING PARTY, FRELIMO, HAS NO HISTORY OF USING ASSASSINATION AS A POLITICAL WEAPON, AND INDEED ITS LEADERS HAVE MORE OFTEN BEEN VICTIMS OF POLITICAL VIOLENCE THAN ITS INSTIGATORS. BOTH FRELIMO'S PRESIDENTS HAVE DIED VIOLENTLY. EDUARDO MONDLANE WAS KILLED BY A PORTUGUESE PARCEL BOMB IN 1969, AND SAMORA MACHEL DIED IN A MYSTERIOUS PLANE CRASH ON SOUTH AFRICAN SOIL IN 1986.

IT IS ASSUMED HERE THAT THE MOZAMBICAN REFUSAL TO HAND OVER THE TWO DIPLOMATS FOR TRIAL IS BASED ON WELL-FOUNDED DOUBTS ABOUT THE COMPETENCE OF LISBON'S INTELLIGENCE SERVICES, THE SIM AND THE SIS - A MISTRUST WHICH IS APPARENTLY SHARED BY MAJOR WESTERN AGENCIES AS WELL.

ACCORDING TO AN AUTHORITATIVE REPORT ON THE PORTUGUESE SECRET SERVICES CIRCULATED RECENTLY IN HARARE AND MAPUTO, +THE HISTORY OF PORTUGUESE INTELLIGENCE-GATHERING SINCE 1974 IS CHARACTERIZED BY AMBIVALENCE ABOUT ITS LEGITIMACY, ITS ORGANIZATION, ADMINISTRATION AND ANSWERABILITY, AND ITS POLITICAL ROLE.+ THE SAME REPORT GOES ON TO POINT OUT THAT BECAUSE THE SERVICES RELY HEAVILY ON INTELLIGENCE PROVIDED BY OTHER WESTERN AGENCIES +INFORMED OBSERVERS IN PORTUGAL WORRY THAT [THEY] COULD EASILY FALL VICTIM TO ANY DISINFORMATION MANOEUVRES.+

IN ADDITION THERE IS INTENSE INTER-SERVICE RIVALRY, NOT ONLY BETWEEN MILITARY INTELLIGENCE (SIM) AND CIVILIAN INTELLIGENCE (SIS), BUT ALSO BETWEEN THESE TWO AND THE DCCB, THE PORTUGUESE SPECIAL BRANCH. THIS HAS LED AT TIMES TO KEYSTONE COPS SITUATIONS. EARLY IN THE INVESTIGATIONS INTO THE FERNANDES MURDER, DCCB AGENTS ARRESTED A SUSPECT WHO TURNED OUT TO BE A SIS AGENT WORKING ON THE SAME CASE. NEITHER AGENCY WAS APPARENTLY AWARE OF THE OTHER'S INVOLVEMENT.

OTHER SNAFUS HAVE INCLUDED THE MISHANDLING OF A WOULD-BE CZECH DEFECTOR WHO EVENTUALLY GAVE UP AND RETURNED HOME, AND THE CASE OF A GUINEA-BISSAU MILITARY ATTACHE WHO ASKED FOR POLITICAL ASYLUM, BUT WAS SUBSEQUENTLY GIVEN NEITHER THE MATERIAL SUPPORT NOR THE POLICE PROTECTION HE HAD BEEN PROMISED.

THE PORTUGUESE INTELLIGENCE SERVICES ARE PROHIBITED BY LAW FROM EMPLOYING FORMER PIDE AGENTS, AND ARE THUS STAFFED BY A MIXTURE OF YOUNG GRADUATES WITH LITTLE EXPERIENCE, OR BY RETURNEES FROM THE AFRICAN COLONIES, MAINLY ANGOLA.