

MOZAMBIQUE: Portuguese diplomat expelled ION 25/3/89

Diplomatic relations between Lisbon and Maputo should not suffer too drastically from the expulsion of the commercial attaché at the Portuguese Embassy in Mozambique last week. Mr. **José Marcelino da Silva's** treatment was in fact a question of retaliation for the Portuguese authorities decision to declare the third secretary of the Mozambican Embassy in Portugal, **Rafael Custodio Marques**, "*persona non grata*". Mr. Marques is suspected of having been involved in the murder of Evo Fernandes, the former Secretary General of RENAMO, which the Mozambican government strongly denies (ION N°372).

In Lisbon, in circles in close contact with the Portuguese Secret Service, it is believed that the suspicion surrounding Rafael Custodio Marques is nothing but a smoke screen. This affair has not affected the Portuguese Prime Minister, **Cavaco Silva's**, decision to visit Maputo in May.