

USA/Mozambique: Politics and money in Freedom Inc.

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The lobby in the United States which backs the Mozambique National Resistance (RENAMO or MNR) is trying to persuade the **George Bush** administration to replace US diplomatic support for the existing government of Mozambique with support for RENAMO. The small but well-organised RENAMO lobby is disappointed that **Ronald Reagan** never recognised RENAMO and hopes that Bush might prove more amenable.

Much hangs on the decision. International backing for RENAMO is a matter of life and death for several southern African countries and of controversy inside South Africa. For the US government it is a matter of minor importance. US conservatives say there is a possibility that Bush may give some degree of recognition to RENAMO as a sop to them while he abandons the Nicaraguan Contras.

Among moves undertaken by the RENAMO lobby are the following:

- to petition the new Secretary of State **James Baker**. Although he has a reputation as a pragmatist rather than an ideologue, Baker is reported to have undertaken to review US policy on Mozambique.

- to persuade the various factions of the RENAMO lobby to form a united front, and in particular to reconcile **Thomas Schaaf** with those under the umbrella of Freedom Inc. (AC Vol 29 No 24). This was the significance of a visit to RENAMO-held areas of Mozambique in December. A party travelling under the auspices of Freedom Inc. included ex-US, Rhodesian and South African commando **Robert Mackenzie**; retired General **John Singlaub**, a former head of the World Anti-Communist League; **Sybil Cline**, daughter of the ex-Central Intelligence Agency operations chief **Ray Cline**; and journalists from West Germany and Britain.

- to redouble efforts to publicise RENAMO. This has already led to improved coverage in the Western press. There are plans for a British film on RENAMO.

The immediate purpose of the December trip to RE-

NAMO-land was to secure the release of **Nicholas della Casa**, a British journalist of Zimbabwean origin whom RENAMO had held for 18 months as a suspected agent of Britain's MI6 secret service. The British authorities had requested Kenya's President **Daniel arap Moi** and US Senator **Jesse Helms** to help secure della Casa's release. It appears that either Helms or Moi had approached Freedom Inc., who agreed to undertake the task. The US right is bitter that its heroine, Britain's Prime Minister **Margaret Thatcher**, has refused help to RENAMO. So it is likely that Freedom Inc. would have required a *quid pro quo* for its help in releasing della Casa. What that might be is unclear, but could involve help in improving RENAMO's public image.

Freedom Inc., formed in 1987, is now the most important of the pro-RENAMO groups in the USA. Its aim is to promote support for anti-communist fighters especially in Nicaragua, Angola and Mozambique. At its inception Freedom Inc. said that it aimed to raise \$10 million which could be invested and result in a regular income to fund anti-communist movements. This is believed to have been an idea first created by Gen. **Richard Secord**, the mastermind of the Swiss bank-accounts used in the Irangate operation.

Freedom Inc. is intimately connected with the Conservative Digest magazine, perhaps the leading journal of the US right. The editorial board of the *Conservative Digest* and the membership roll of Freedom Inc. contain many of the same names.

Thus, the co-publishers of the *Conservative Digest* include **Larry Abraham** and **Harry Schultz** (co-chairmen of Freedom Inc.). The third co-publisher is **Robert Kriebel**, a trustee of the Heritage Foundation. The editor-in-chief is **Jim Whelan** (first editor of the *Washington Times*, and member of Freedom Inc.'s strategy council). Among *Conservative Digest* contributing editors are **Ray Cline** (ex-CIA operations chief); **Jerry Falwell** (of the Moral Majority); General **Daniel Graham** (ex-head of the Defence Intelligence Agency, US Military Intelligence); and Senator **Jesse**

Helms.

Freedom Inc. raises money by appealing to the public for contributions, which are then handled by Harry Schultz. But Schultz, Abraham and other Freedom Inc. top brass also publish private newsletters in which they advise clients on share-purchases and other financial matters. Thus Larry Abraham's newsletter *The Insider Report* in February 1987 recommended buying exotic shares through Gerry Pogue's National Securities Corporation. Gerry Pogue is a fellow contributing editor of the *Conservative Digest*. In the November 1988 issue of the *Conservative Digest*, Abraham recommended the services of First Eagle investment bankers, headed by Ozzie Dunker. Dunker has another firm, Dunhill Investments, at the same address as First Eagle in Colorado Springs. And so on. So Freedom Inc./*Conservative Digest* luminaries, while raising money privately for anti-communist struggles in Africa, Asia and Central America, also have a tendency to recommend each others' shares, services and newsletters.

Unsurprisingly in these circumstances, Abraham and

Schultz have disagreed about aspects of Freedom Inc. finances. South African influence may have played a part in this, in the person of **Craig Williamson**, the legendary former spy. Williamson, who left the South African Security Police in 1985 for business and politics, is now acting on security matters on behalf of 'Pik' Botha's powerful Foreign Ministry, which is often at loggerheads with the army. Williamson is known to be close to Schultz. Williamson has sabotaged plans by the South African Military Intelligence Directorate to make a film about RENAMO. It could be that some Freedom Inc. members suspect Schultz of being too close to the South African Foreign Ministry, whereas their own preference is for the army.

Schultz-watchers also note that in January 1987 he was initiated into the Sovereign Order of Saint John, Knights of Malta Inc., the bogus order of chivalry set up by Italian spy and convicted terrorist **Francesco Pazienza** and now controlled by Williamson's business partner **Mario Ricci** (AC Vol 28 No 8). Williamson is also an initiate of the order, not to be confused with the genuine Vatican order of chivalry ●