

MOZAMBIQUE: "Secret accord" between Renamo and Malawi ?

According to the *South African Research and Documentatton Centre* (SARDC) based in Harare in Mozambique, Malawi signed an agreement with the *Renamo* about two years ago, a "secret accord" under which the rebels had promised not to attack roads linking Malawi to Zimbabwe, but which cross Mozambican territory, in the Tete region, nor the route from Malawi to Nacala, both of which are two vital axes for Malawi in terms of trade outlets.

But Renamo's attacks in Tete province have increased since the partial cease-fire agreed at the beginning of December 1990 between the rebels and the government in Maputo. In fact, Zimbabwean troops, under the terms of this agreement, were stationed in the Beira and Limpopo corridors and no longer guarantee the safe transport of convoys travelling between Malawi and Harare. With reference to a Western diplomatic source, but not an explicit one, the SARDC claims that the authorities in Malawi have interpreted the Renamo attacks as a unilateral breaking of the "contract". Malawi's Ambassador to Maputo, Mr **Kachama** has rejected these allegations.

I.O.N.- These recent attacks by the Renamo on convoys in the Tete corridors could be interpreted as an attempt on the part of the rebels to apply pressure to the Malawi authorities so that they will allow them to use Malawi as a rear base for future strategic anti-government offensives in the central region of Mozambique.