

Taking the threat of regional destabilization seriously, a threat at whose source lies the Renamo, the authorities in Harare have decided to consolidate their military strength on the border with Mozambique and to reinforce discipline in camps where Mozambican refugees are lodged at Nyamatikiti, Mazowe River Bridge, Nyamgombe and Tongogara. For several months in fact, the Renamo has made an increasing number of murderous raids in Zimbabwe. The Mozambican rebels have even used Zimbabwean territory as a base from which they launch their attacks on targets in Mozambique without the army being able to prevent them effectively. According to a report from the military authorities, recently submitted to President **Robert Mugabe**, most attacks carried out by the Mozambican rebels on the pipeline and the railway line which link Mutare (south east of Harare) with the Mozambican port of Beira, were organized with the help of Mozambican refugees in the camps in Zimbabwe.

But the most sensitive problem is the relative goodwill shown to the Renamo by the villagers in the south east of Zimbabwe, notably in the Chipingwe district. It has become apparent that this local complicity has gone a long way in hindering the efforts made by Harare to prevent the attacks by Mozambican rebels on its territory. In a report carried out in November 1990 in the border zone, the "Manica Post", a weekly publication edited in Mutare, cited the administrator of the Chipingwe district, **Chris Chingosho**, who said that there was no solid collusion between the local people and the army because of its strong ties with the Renamo.

The residents of Chipingwe district speak Ndau, just like the founding core of the Renamo who hail from the Mozambican province of Sofala. This district constitutes furthermore, a political specificity of Zimbabwe as it is the only constituency not controlled by President Robert Mugabe's party, the Zimbabwe African National Union (ZANU-PF) which, in December 1989, was rejoined by **Joshua Nkomo's** followers who formed the Zimbabwe African People's Union (ZAPU). During the March 1990 elections, the Chipingwe electors voted for the ZANU-Ndonga candidates, the party led by former nationalist leader, **Ndabaningi Sithole**, today in exile. The town of Mutare, a little further north along the border with Mozambique is also in a state of potential fronde. Former minister under Robert Mugabe who has become a fierce opponent since he founded the Zimbabwe Unity Movement (ZUM), **Edward Tekere**, won a seat here.

As a punishment for their inability to prevent local people from fraternizing with the Renamo, the administrative leader for the district of Chipingwe, Chris Chingosho and the local military commander have been removed from their functions and replaced. At the beginning of February, Zimbabwean army reinforcements were moved towards Chipingwe from Mutare.