

# US rightwingers finance civil war

**Victoria Brittain** in Maputo says official American policies are being flouted

**R**IGHTWING American interests are seeking substantial private loans to aid Mozambique National Resistance (MNR) rebels fighting the Frelimo government, according to documents made available to the Guardian.

The fundraising efforts run directly counter to stated US priorities.

Business sponsors have been promised that they will be reimbursed for their contributions with interest, and that they will become automatic members of the "Mozambique Business Association" which, in the event of the MNR taking over Mozambique, will turn the country into "the Hong Kong of Africa".

The documents estimate that \$10 million (£5 million) a year can be made from a renegotiated agreement on Zimbabwe's use of the Beira corridor through Mozambique, its primary trade route to the sea.

The backing being sought includes \$214,000 for a high-flying team of advisers to assist the MNR side at a fifth round of peace talks in Rome, expected to start shortly.

Since the last round of discussions in December, the peace process is being monitored by eight governments.

The panel of advisers is being assembled and will include a former assistant secretary of state, Alan Keyes, now of the American Enterprise Institute, Howard Johns of the Conservative Caucus, and the Heritage Foundation's Michael Johns. Bruce Fein, a lawyer and columnist for the Washington Times, who is also part of the group, has drawn up a constitutional proposal which the MNR will present in Rome.

Backing from conservative US interests for the MNR runs counter to State Department support for last year's political and economic reforms, which aimed to replace marxist-leninism in Africa's poorest country with World Bank and International Monetary Fund policies.