

Group seeking big loans in US to bolster Renamo

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A RIGHT-WING group is seeking substantial loans from United States business sponsors to bolster the Mozambique National Resistance (Renamo), according to documents acquired by The Guardian newspaper.

In a report yesterday, the newspaper claimed the sponsors stand to be reimbursed with interest, and that they will become automatic members of the "Mozambique Business Association".

This organisation, the documents claim will, in the event of Renamo taking over Mozambique, turn the country into the "Hong Kong of Africa".

The documents, based on a meeting in February of the conservative think-tank, the Council for National Policy, estimate that \$10m 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 group is seeking initial backing of \$214 000 for a high-flying team of advisers to assist the Renamo side at a fifth round of peace talks in Rome, expected to start soon.

According to The Guardian, the talks have been delayed by Renamo several times since the last round in December.

"The documents make it clear that the delaying tactics have been aimed at preventing the talks starting again without a US advisory team in place."

The documents indicate that the Renamo advisers being assembled 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, is also part of the group.
