

# Kenya said to be still backing MNR

*Herald* From Arnold Raphael: LONDON 1/11/91  
KENYA was again accused yesterday of backing the MNR bandits in defiance of the agreement at the recent Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Harare that all external support should cease forthwith.

Quoting British and Italian diplomatic sources, The Independent said that bandit officials travelled on Kenyan passports and had been given material assistance by senior Kenyan officials in Nairobi. The London newspaper claimed earlier in the year that Kenya was supplying the MNR with uniforms and providing military training.

"Kenya's support for Renamo is embarrassing for the British government which is training the national army to fight the rebels," commented The Independent.

It added that Nairobi believed that the MNR enjoyed some support in Mozambique and that Kenyan assistance enabled the movement to come to the conference table. "Kenyan officials argue that they are helping to bring about peace through 'quiet diplomacy' — the phrase Britain uses to describe its efforts to push Kenya towards democracy," the newspaper said.

Western analysts were puzzled by Kenya's assistance for the MNR bandits, believing it might have more to do with "payments to individual Kenyan officials by Renamo's backers than Kenya's strategic interests".

"Others point to the fact that both Afonso Dhlakama, the Renamo leader, and some senior Kenyan politicians are rightwing evangelical Christians and that Kenya gave Dhlakama a home when he first fled Mozambique more than 10 years ago."

Meanwhile, Kenya's acting high commissioner in London, Mr Green Josiah yesterday said:

"The Kenya government has never supported Renamo against the Maputo government nor provided material support or military training to that effect."

Mr Josiah said in a statement that: "Kenya was in fact called upon by the Mozambican government to help Renamo's participation in the peace process. Kenya continued to play this role until broader peace negotiations were taken over by the Italian government. Kenya was further requested by both parties to continue participating as a facilitator."