

# Renamo: ivory for guns claim

Mark Stansfield

RENAMO poaches and trades ivory — allegedly with the help of South African border farmers and the SADF — in exchange for arms, according to the US Defence Department Intelligence Agency (DIA).

A mystery South African "white woman" also takes part in the clandestine deals, which are concluded on the South African border with Mozambique.

The Sunday Star is in possession of a DIA document which summarises the interrogation of a young Renamo soldier who made the allegations.

Sections of the document were blanked out before being given to the Sunday Star.

The document states that the SADF may be engaged in supplying and training Renamo soldiers without the knowledge of President de Klerk or his Cabinet.

The report states that as late as February 1991, South African helicopters delivered arms and ammunition to Renamo in southern Mozambique,

██████████ WITH THE SPECIFIC AIM OF ASKING HIM ABOUT RENAMO AND SUPPORT TO RENAMO. ██████████ DID NOT TRY AND EMBELLISH DETAILS OF SOUTH AFRICAN SUPPORT TO RENAMO, NOR DID HE OPENLY VOLUNTEER INFORMATION. IF ANYTHING, MOST OF THE DETAILS WERE ONLY ARRIVED AT AFTER PAINSTAKING ██████████

TOP SECRET . . . part of the DIA document that reveals South African support for Renamo.

and that Renamo is actively engaged in the ivory trade.

The agency quoted a soldier who said that when he was a member of a section he was often asked to go into a huge area with lots of elephants to kill the elephants for their tusks. He said this operation is still continuing.

## Tusks

"His group brought the tusks to a camp near the border, where the tusks were given to a group of whites, including a white woman, who took the tusks away.

"When asked why his section was told to kill elephants, he said those were the orders they were given. He did not know what Renamo received in ex-

change," says the report.

The soldier said that clandestine support was channelled through South African farms in the border area. Renamo was using ivory to purchase goods it needed from the outside, the document states.

"The equipment delivered (to Renamo) by the helicopters included small arms ammunition for AK-47s, FN rifles with ammunition, 60 mm mortars with ammunition, and grenades. The grenades had some type of throwing device.

"The helicopter was an unmarked civilian helicopter piloted by two white males. The helicopter also picked up Renamo members who were going for special commando training in South Africa. He described

the helicopter as large and capable of seating more than 10 people.

"He said the helicopter ride from Mapulanguene base into South Africa was short, probably 30 minutes.

## Young fighter

In a second interrogation, the DIA drew up a profile of the young Renamo fighter and a brief description of the SADF base he trained in.

"During the interrogation (deleted) explained that 'Pretoria' was bordered by high mountains, one of which had a large antenna. 'Pretoria' was also bordered by a railway track. The camp had a lot of military vehicles with white men and was the home of a unit he

vaguely remembered as the 10th or 11th Squadron.

"During both interviews, his responses were often difficult to understand, as he rambled and often went off on tangents. A lot of care had to be taken to understand exactly what was being said. For example, 'Pretoria' was most likely a military installation somewhere in South Africa, but probably near or in the Kruger Park."

An SADF spokesman said the report had no factual basis.

"The Defence Force denies that it provides support of any kind to Renamo, or that it provides training for Renamo members," the spokesman said.

"The Joint Security Commission (JSC) between Mozambique and SA is a forum to discuss and resolve precisely this kind of allegation.

"The DIA obviously has its own reasons for disseminating this kind of report."

Minister of Law and Order Hennis Kriel this week called on any person with detailed information on SADF involvement in international ivory smuggling to come forward "regardless of the alleged level of involvement".