

## MOZAMBIQUE: Intermediaries    *ION 13/5/89*

Following Assistant Secretary of State (designate) for African Affairs, **Herman Cohen's** audience with the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on May 4, the State Department said that, *"The US is aware of important contacts with RENAMO that have been carried out by respected intermediaries with the knowledge of the government of Mozambique"*. It went on to say, *"We strongly support this effort to identify the people and clarify the issues that might lead to peace and normalisation in Mozambique."* For its part, RENAMO announced on May 10 in Lisbon that it was *"open to political dialogue"* and that it *"wants to arrive at a complete and ultimate cease-fire as quickly as possible without any prior conditions."* Recently, President **Joaquim Chissano**, who rejected every possibility of direct negotiation, said that RENAMO was prepared to accept him as President but that it wanted several ministerial portfolios for its own members.