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MOZAMBIQUE: PARALLEL LINES

Negotiations between the Maputo government and the *Resistência Nacional Moçambicana* (Renamo) are deadlocked, despite continuing efforts by the churches (AC Vol 30 No 14). The impasse has got less to do with the protagonists than with pressure on Maputo from the United States, Portugal and South Africa.

This triumvirate has let President Joaquim Chissano know that they do not consider a multi-party constitution to be an indispensable element in a settlement in Mozambique. However, they would prefer not to see agreement reached on Mozambique before the Angolan government reaches agreement with the *União Nacional para Independência Total de Angola* (Unita). So far, Luanda has categorically refused to legalise Jonas Savimbi's movement, a *sine qua non* for the USA.

Despite its insistence on a multi-party system in Angola, Washington has dropped demands for Maputo to recognise Renamo formally and to introduce a multi-party system. The USA shares the latter position with Lisbon - whose voice counts in the State Department where Angola and Mozambique are concerned - and Pretoria.

America has decided that Renamo does not enjoy the same legitimacy as Unita and that Mozambique has shown unexpected flexibility in its political and economic adjustments over the past three years. If Maputo were to reach agreement without formally recognising Renamo, in the opinion of Washington, this would give support to Luanda in its refusal to legitimise Unita.

This summer, Chissano was on the verge of accepting the right of former members of Renamo to stand in national elections in their personal capacities. This was despite the opposition of several members of the Political Bureau of the ruling *Frente de Libertação de Moçambique* (Frelimo). Chissano was also ready to agree that some portfolios in the social field - education, culture, health and justice - could go to former members of Renamo on an individual basis. Renamo is currently demanding finance, defence and transport.

Chissano has tried to convince President José Eduardo dos Santos to agree to legalise Unita so as to remove the impediment to peace in Mozambique. But this has not impressed Luanda.

Mozambican government sources are unhappy with the mediation of Kenyan President Daniel arap Moi. They accuse him of failing to inform the Mozambican government of bilateral talks between the Kenyan government and Renamo. The United States and West German governments have been keeping Maputo more fully informed.