

Chissano and Moi not seeing eye to eye

The main aim of South African President **Frederik de Klerk's** regional policy, is to reach a settlement on the Mozambican question in the next six months. During his visit on December 1 to the Côte d'Ivoire, his first trip abroad as Head of State, Mr de Klerk had a long discussion with President **Felix Houphouët Boigny** on the current situation in Mozambique. On December 15, the South African President was scheduled to pay his second visit to an African country, this time to Mozambique where he is expected to meet President **Joaquim Chissano**. Their agenda is to include the strengthening of economic relations between the two countries whereby Pretoria may extend its credit guarantees to Mozambique's development projects, but also, they are expected to discuss a solution to the conflict with RENAMO.

According to our information from high-ranking government sources, President Chissano is, for his part, very unhappy about Kenyan mediation. He considers that President **Daniel arap Moi's** role in the Mozambican conflict is far from neutral. He was particularly shocked during the PTA Summit held on November 30 and December 1 in Nairobi, at President Moi's insistence on him meeting the leader of RENAMO, **Afonso Dhlakama**. President Chissano went as far as threatening to leave Nairobi in the middle of the Summit. It is even being said in Joaquim Chissano's entourage, that Kenya is now fulfilling the role vis-à-vis RENAMO which until now, was played by South Africa.

Mozambique's President arrived in Nairobi on November 27 at the head of a delegation which, from all appearances, was not concerned by the PTA Summit alone. Amongst those accompanying the President were his younger brother, **Alberto Chissano**, who has been commuting between Maputo and Nairobi in the last few months, as well as an official from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, **Geraldo Chirindza**. For his part, Afonso Dhlakama arrived via Malawi, from his military base in Chire in Zambezia province. Following President Moi's failure to arrange a meeting between President Chissano and the leader of the RENAMO, talks were held, attended by representatives of Kenya, Zimbabwe and the RENAMO. Alberto Chissano and Geraldo Chirindza were also present at this meeting.

Joaquim Chissano is not however, seeking to brutally push Kenya out of the present negotiating process. He would prefer to gradually implement an alternative solution, which he hopes to find in the French-speaking countries, with, so it seems, South Africa's backing. Mozambican diplomats esteem that the Côte d'Ivoire, could be potentially good in this respect. President Chissano is meant to meanwhile, visit Morocco following the Luso-speaking Head of States' conference in Cape Verde from December 18 to 20. In fact, he is counting on the French-speaking "block", but also on West Germany and the United States to exert sufficient pressure on RENAMO so that it will acknowledge the "legitimacy" of the FRELIMO government.

Tiny Rowlands, head of the Lonhro group is also playing an active role in these discussions. Joaquim Chissano had a ten-hour discussion with Mr Rowland at the beginning of November after he had been on a tour of Kenya and Zimbabwe.

It is all the more important for Mozambique's government to free itself from Kenyan pressure as President Mol apparently succeeded in convincing President **Robert Mugabe** of Zimbabwe that he should do what he could to organise a meeting between Chissano and Dlakhama, like the Gbadolite meeting between the Angolan President, **Eduardo dos Santos** and the leader of the UNITA rebels, **Jonas Savimbi**. Presidents Mugabe and Mol met on December 8 in Nairobi in fact, to discuss the mediation mission which President Chissano had asked them in July to be responsible for. Zimbabwe's press presented these talks as having been a great success, while the official news agency, ZIANA, reported a "secret agreement" between the two Heads of State on the future initiatives they intend to take to put an end to the civil war in Mozambique. Mr Dlakhama was still in Nairobi while these discussions were going on, and it is highly likely that he discussed with Daniel arap Moi and Robert Mugabe.

Meanwhile, these two Heads of State, gave the Mozambican Minister of Transport, General **Armando Guebuza**, often considered as being President Chissano's "dauphin", a message for his President. It was exactly the same as that sent to the leader of the RENAMO.

One of the major reasons for Mozambique's reluctance to sign an agreement with the RENAMO is whether or not Afonso Dlakhama has the capacity to make his troops respect such an accord. Also, even if FRELIMO's central committee has categorically rejected the introduction of a multi-party system, as RENAMO demands, President Chissano does plan to introduce it, but only in 1991, and after it has been voted by referendum.