

MOZAMBIQUE: Algerian mediation

ION 3/3/90

While Mozambican President **Joaquim Chissano's** recent visit to Algeria was an opportunity for both countries to discuss the possibility of joint-ventures in agriculture and hydrocarbons (ION N°419), it has since transpired that Algiers may play a role in the settlement of the Mozambican conflict. In an article published last week by Algerian daily *el Moudjahid*, usually wary about making definite statements of this kind, the editor writes, "*Algeria, according to a well-informed source, may make use of its prestige to aid Mozambique in re-tying bonds with the Arab world so that aid to the RENAMO ceases.*"

During the same visit, President Chissano said that, "*contact has already been established,*" between the Mozambican government and the RENAMO. "*Mediation from the Presidents of Kenya and Zimbabwe has made RENAMO accept certain principles which it had rejected until now. That is, recognising the government as such and recognising sovereignty.*" As regards the changes taking place in South Africa, Joaquim Chissano said that, "*South Africa was supporting the RENAMO to counter the ANC. It can be said that these factors no longer exist.*"