

MOZAMBIQUE: Veloso in South Africa again ION 4/11/89

The Mozambican Minister of Cooperation, **Jacinto Veloso**, arrived in Pretoria on October 24 to participate in economic negotiations concerning notably the rehabilitation of the Maputo corridor. The idea is South Africa's, as it would like to "recuperate" the economy in the south of Mozambique. It is possible to imagine that RENAMO, by stepping up its operations in the south of the country in the last few weeks, has been seeking to sabotage the discussions from which it is excluded. One of its major targets was the capital's electricity supply, which it cut off by destroying the high voltage cable which supplies Maputo, several times. On October 28, for the third time in a month, RENAMO also sabotaged the electric cable on the outskirts of Ressano Garcia, a town situated on the border with South Africa.

During his stay, Jacinto Veloso also wanted to meet and discuss with South Africa's Portuguese community. Some used to live in Mozambique, and many of its members have ties with RENAMO. In South Africa people even speak of a "Right-Wing RENAMO" or the "Portuguese arm of RENAMO." Well-placed in Transvaal, between Johannesburg and Komatipoort, the pro-RENAMO Portuguese are often modest traders working between South Africa, Swaziland and Mozambique. Although their goods are mainly legal, they also tend to handle illegal merchandise.

I.O.N. - Since Portuguese Prime Minister **Cavaco Silva** visited Mozambique (ION N°400), President Chissano has been trying to get the Portuguese community in South Africa to participate in the peace process. He invited one of the leaders of the community, **Horacio Roque** and young Portuguese businessmen to participate in Mozambique's economic development. Jacinto Veloso, who is himself of Portuguese origin, must have tried to convince them that their future lies with the current regime in Mozambique rather than with a hypothetical victory on the part of RENAMO.