

# Mozambique

**E**ver since Frelimo came to power in Mozambique, filled with the usual Marxist-Leninist enthusiasm for the un-shared (though not unchallenged) authority with which the one-party state invests its government, the country has been plagued by troubles. Compounding the problems of implementing the socialist principles, which the East Europeans have latterly discarded as unworkable, has been enduring and terribly costly civil strife. The Renamo movement, with material assistance from the old Rhodesian and South African Governments, has provided the focal point for demands for multi-party democracy and a free-market economy and, after the loss of some 600 000 lives, fighting has still not resolved the differences between Government and dissidents. President Chissano's announcement that a multi-party system is to be adopted, and his hint that the MNR could become a legitimate political party, should remove the major obstacle to the achievement of peace in Mozambique.

With F.W. de Klerk curbing the Mozambique adventurists amongst the South African military, hopes that Renamo will agree to a settlement must run high. At the same time, Frelimo has not abandoned its Marxist-Leninist ideology, and there will be suspicion that this is a tactical manoeuvre to secure peace rather than a substantive change in principle.