

# All the right's moves

WM. 15-21/1/93 p.3

*Far-right groups, with links to Renamo, are attempting to buy up land in Mozambique — possibly with a view to 'recolonising' the country.*

By **EDDIE KOCH** and **ARTHUR GAVSHON**

**R**IGHTWINGERS from South Africa are colonising parcels of land in deserted rural areas of Mozambique so that they can set up farming and tourism projects.

At least one of these schemes involves a bizarre plan to create a small white homeland in the former Marxist state.

A range of far-right splinter groups, disillusioned by moves to end apartheid at home, are expanding into Mozambique by offering the Frelimo government farming and business skills needed to rebuild a country devastated by 15 years of civil war.

Some groups have entered into secret pacts with Mozambique's rightwing rebel movement, Renamo, to make sure that their plans succeed. Contacts with the Renamo leadership were made, in some cases, through South African Defence Force officers involved in supplying clandestine aid to the rebels during the late 1980s.

**D**etails about one of the more controversial projects surfaced in London last month when a man called Danie Oosthuysen, once a senior member of the Afrikaner Weerstandsbeweging and a close friend of its leader, Eugene Terre'Blanche, fled the United Kingdom after being picked up by British security agents on suspicion of buying arms for the AWB.

Oosthuysen left a pile of documents in his London hotel room which show that he was trying to raise investment capital for a multi-million dollar project that would have given the rightwinger a large chunk of land in Mozambique's Gaza province in exchange for upgrading the area (see accompanying story).

The documents reveal that Oosthuysen's company based in the northern Transvaal town of Pietersburg, the Sub-Sahara Development Co, has been secretly dealing with the leadership of Renamo while negotiating with the government of Mozambique.

"It is the company's firm belief, after initial contact with Remano (sic) that the security of the company's property and personnel will not be jeopardised in anyway ... At no stage must the government of Mozambique be informed that Renamo supports this scheme," says a memo contained in the documents.

Oosthuysen's scheme is just the latest in a series of controversial projects being set up by members of South Africa's far-right in Mozambique.

● In 1989 Colonel Gert Otto, commander of the SADF's security operations in the Kruger National Park, set up a company called the



**Danie Oosthuysen ... Secret deals with Renamo**

Mozambique Assistance and Investment Corporation (Mozaic) with plans to develop a large game reserve on the Mozambique side of Kruger.

A senior officer in the South African Police told *The Weekly Mail* that Otto had extensive dealings with Renamo, supplying the rebels with arms and supplies until as late as 1989, while he was setting up the company.

One of the colonel's stated objectives, according to the company's mission statement, was to "provide productive security information to the security community".

The SADF officer's plans were scuttled when he was transferred from his post in the Kruger Park to the northern Transvaal. Some of Otto's men were using their contacts with Renamo to smuggle tusks from elephants poached in Mozambique into South Africa.

● In the middle of last year Mozambican wildlife officers foiled plans by a consortium of South African businessmen — including a member of the AWB convicted of fraud and dealing in illicit diamonds — to bulldoze a coral reef off an island in the Bazaruto archipelago so that they could build an upmarket tourist resort there.

The plan was aborted by ecologists working for the Mozambican government.

● An even more bizarre project in Mozambique involves an offshoot of the militant Wit Wolwe called the Israelites.

**Jan Taljaard** reports that the Israelites, a fanatical religious sect with extreme rightwing views, have set up a chapter in Mozambique with the idea of creating a small all-white enclave in the southern province of Maputo.

The Israelites believe that members of the

white race are the descendants of the tribes of Israel and that all other races, including blacks and Jews, are sub-human. The sect's members appear to be unconcerned that Mozambique is ruled by a black government — even though they refer to Africans as "members of the mud races" or "crownless animals of the field".

Eddie von Maltitz, one-time leader of the Boereweestandsbeweging (BWB) and now head of an organisation called Resistance Against Communism, says he has been asked by Israelite members to help run a dairy farm they have established near Maputo (See PAGE 10).

Terre'Blanche this week told Mozambican journalists he was aware of plans by various rightwing groups to settle on land but said his organisation was not interested in this project. "The fact is that if I had a single rand I would use it to buy bullets, not land," Terre'Blanche is quoted as saying by the Mozambican newsletter, *Mediafax*.

These groups are able to get into Mozambique because the authorities there are desperate to raise foreign investment capital.

Large tracts of land in the country's hinterland have been left fallow for many years because millions of villagers and peasant farmers have fled to large towns and the relatively safe coastline to escape Renamo attacks.

**A**bdul Adamo, former director of Mozambique's Department of Wildlife and Forestry, says his government encourages South Africans to invest in productive business projects in South Africa but that each scheme is examined by the Mozambican cabinet before being approved.

Augusto Sumburane, director of the Office for Foreign Investment Promotion in Maputo, told *Mediafax* that there were four projects formally approved by his office which involved farmers from South Africa.

One thousand hectares have been granted to Mozambicans who have entered into "joint ventures" with the South Africans for cattle and cotton farming. Some of the deals involve the import of farming equipment in exchange for land. There are no indications that these projects are linked in any way to the rightwing schemes.

Government officials in Maputo say it is easy for foreigners to obtain access to land without going through official channels by getting Mozambicans to act as fronts for them.

Mozambican officials say there has been a recent rush for land and business contracts in their country by South Africans as it appears that the ceasefire between Renamo and government forces will hold. "There are many more proposals from South Africa but most are not serious," said Sumburane.

There is concern in some government departments that thousands of Mozambicans will return to their rural homes to find their land occupied by white Afrikaners and that this will become a source of serious social conflict in the future.