

Terrorist supporters woo Tories

DAVID LEIGH and PAUL LASHMAR
uncover US-funded right-wingers seeking support for murder gangs in southern Africa

THIS WEEK, at the Conservative Party conference, a 24-year-old named Marc Gordon will be showering delegates with glossy literature promoting terrorism.

Gordon, a bookmaker's son and one of the new breed of British ultra-rightists, is receiving backing from the United States.

Investigations by *The Observer* reveal that large sums of foreign money have been pumped into an extraordinary 'epidemic' of new 'institutes' and 'foundations', staffed by young British right-wingers.

Their aim, apparently coordinated, is to promote the image of a man universally agreed by Western leaders to be one of the most murderous terrorists in Africa: Alfonso Dhlakama, of Renamo, the Mozambique National Resistance.

Gordon has never been to Mozambique and has never met Dhlakama. But he praises him as an anti-Communist freedom fighter, just like Arturo Calero, the Nicaraguan Contra leader.

'Renamo is the best-run anti-Marxist campaign of the 1980s,' he says. 'People are no longer ashamed of supporting them. Mrs Thatcher is misguided.'

Calero is being brought to Brighton in person this week by Gordon's 'International

Freedom Foundation' (IFF). Dhlakama — who spends much of his time in South Africa — is apparently not yet considered sufficiently presentable for the world stage.

The propaganda campaign on behalf of Dhlakama is echoed in a British chorus by two organisations in particular: Western Goals UK, managed by a youthful Conservative, Andrew Smith, with a group of his friends; and the Mozambique Solidarity Campaign, run by a former Young Conservative, Dominic Collins, from the same address as the International Society for Human Rights (ISHR).

The ISHR is run in London by a one-time member of the Federation of Conservative Students, Karen Cooksley. (Conservative Central Office disbanded the Federation in 1986 for 'extremism'.)

Other hitherto little-known organisations which are now singing the praises of Renamo or the Contras in Britain include: the Institute for the Study of Terrorism, the Campaign for a Free Britain, and the Committee for a Free Nicaragua.

They have suddenly joined the group of oddly-titled right-wing organisations which emerged in Britain around the time of the general election in June 1987 — among them, the Coalition

for Peace Through Security, the Social Affairs Unit and the Institute for European Defence and Security.

All these organisations take a generally Reaganite line: anti-Communist, pro-nuclear weapons, and in favour of 'rolling back' Marxism throughout the world by armed force, whether in Grenada, central America or southern Africa. None of them declares the source of its funding.

Some had direct links with intelligence figures in the US and with the private-enterprise anti-Communist adventures organised by the now-disgraced Colonel Oliver North from the White House basement.

Gordon — who, with his young colleagues, has been taken to the US and 'on patrol' with the Contras — works as a junior partner to the International Freedom Foundation in Washington.

He was recruited by Jack Abramoff, a leading figure in the new American ultra-Right, who first came to prominence when he organised a dinner in memory of Senator Larry McDonald, of Georgia, one of the 269 killed aboard the South Korean airliner shot down by the Russians in September 1963. McDonald had been a prominent supporter of the far-Right John Birch Society and of the extremist

'World Anti-Communist League'

The spotlight fell on Abramoff again later when it was disclosed during the Irangate hearings that he had had regular meetings with Colonel North. Abramoff's IFF also has an office in South Africa.

The wealthy Washington Heritage Foundation has pumped funds and literature into many of these lobbying and propaganda activities, in Britain as well as in the US.

According to its internal documents, Heritage channelled £140,000 to Britain via Brian Crozier, a veteran anti-Communist journalist who ran the CIA-backed news agency Forum World Features in the 1970s and more recently presided over the Institute for the Study of Conflict.

The funds were designated for the IFFB—International Freedom Fund Establishment. Crozier refuses to say what he did with the money. Gordon denies that it went to the IFF but adds that he welcomes Heritage support. The organisers have now been trained in US-style direct-mail techniques for soliciting current running costs from British businessmen.

Similarly, Western Graft UK was launched by a Washington parent, set up by Larry McDonald with Carl Spitz Chagnoff. The original parent body has since been dissolved, after controversy during Irangate about the handling of funds and dealings with Colonel North.

The young Tories employed by Western Goals were supplied with \$15,000 in off-shore bank accounts in the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man; they, too, now concentrate on US-style direct-mail techniques for continued funding.

These are far from the only US-based campaigns and foundations which have sprung up to promote Renamo.

For example, a recent flight into Mozambique by selected US journalists, to interview Dhlakama, was organised by Harry Schultz of Freedom Inc. Schultz, a Monaco resident, was previously European representative of High Frontier, the lobbying organisation for the US Star Wars campaign run by General Daniel Graham, former deputy director of the CIA.

There is also a Mozambique Research Centre, run in Washington by Tom Schatz, which claims to represent Renamo's interests. It is based in the Heritage Foundation building.

Right-wing Evangelists have become involved as well. An Australian, Ian Grey, captured by Mozambique government forces, testified that he was helping Renamo in association with the Shokinah Ministries, a group dealing both with the Mozambique Research Centre, and with the Jimmy Swaggart fundamentalists in the US.

The big obstacle to world recognition of Dhlakama as an anti-Communist crusader is that he and his men are not 'freedom fighters' but terrorists, created by white intelligence agencies. They are 'vicious, murderous bandits' as a million refugees can bear witness. In the words of David Harris, Parliamentary Private Secretary to the Foreign Secretary, Sir Geoffrey Howe.

A report by the US State Department last April said bluntly that Dhlakama's men had brought chaos and misery to the civilian population of Mozambique, murdering, terrorising, enslaving and chopping off ears and noses to enforce their demands.

The report declared: 'It is conservatively estimated that 100,000 civilians may have been murdered by Renamo.' They also poach elephants and rhino for their valuable ivory and horn.

The Mozambique National Resistance was in fact created and funded in 1974 by white Rhodesia's intelligence chief, Kenneth Flower. In his memoirs, he described its members as 'pseudo-terrorists'.

It might seem ironic for Marc Gordon and his friends to lobby in Brighton, where the sea-front has been sealed off in a £1.5 million anti-terrorist operation, and where Mrs Thatcher has seen her friends and colleagues killed by the IRA.

As he sees it, though, Renamo is in a category which he describes to these terms: 'If a group uses legitimate means and I'm not talking about civilians killed in cross-fire, because that happens in all wars—and if its aim is to replace a totalitarian State with a free democracy...

Then that, Marc Gordon says, is why he supports the 'armed struggle' of Afonso Dhlakama.

In 1980, after the fall of the white regime in Rhodesia, Flower admits that he handed over control of the Renamo guerrillas 'lock, stock and barrel' to South Africa and they became 'just another group of foreign mercenaries'.

South Africa, which handles all Renamo's communications and supplies under General C. J. van Tonder, head of military intelligence, uses them to keep Mozambique in a state of collapse. The aim is to weaken South Africa's black opponents.

For the right-wingers in the West, the purpose of the pro-Renamo propaganda campaign is to try to persuade Mrs Thatcher and the US Administration to change their foreign policy. Both governments have cordial relations with Mozambique's Frelimo Government. Britain supplies the latter with mercenary troops and training, through a private firm of ex-SAS officers, DSL Ltd.

THE PROPAGANDA TRAIL



HERITAGE FOUNDATION



WORLD ANTI-COMMUNISM LEAGUE

INTERNATIONAL
FREEDOM FOUNDATION,
Washington DC

WESTERN GOALS
FOUNDATION,
Alexandria, Virginia

MOZAMBIQUE
RESEARCH CENTRE,
Washington DC

ISHR Inc. US section
and headquarters,
Frankfurt

FREEDOM Inc

**'Mozambique
is a key target'**

**'The immediate
objective is
Mozambique.'**

**'Renamo relies
on popular
support'**

**'Government forces
have...a programme
of murder'**

**'Renamo has the
willing support of
the villagers'**

INTERNATIONAL
FREEDOM
FOUNDATION (UK)

WESTERN
GOALS (UK)

MOZAMBIQUE
SOLIDARITY
CAMPAIGN

INTERNATIONAL
SOC. OF HUMAN
RIGHTS (UK)

INSTITUTE FOR
THE STUDY OF
TERRORISM

MARC GORDON

ANDREW SMITH

DOMINIC COLLINS

KAREN COOKSLEY

JILLIAN BECKER