
MOZAMBIQUE: BACKING RENAMO

A new group linked to the *Resistência Nacional Moçambicana* (Renamo) has been set up in London's prestigious Bedford Square. The Mozambique Institute emerged on 20 August, with funding of £100,000 from four British businessmen.

Chairman Robin Birley, son of the former wife of entrepreneur Sir James Goldsmith, and himself the owner of an up-market chain of London sandwich shops, is one of the backers, according to the Institute's Executive Director, David Hoile. The other funders are unwilling to identify themselves.

Hoile is ex-Vice-President of the Federation of Conservative Students, disbanded by the ruling Conservative Party in 1986 because of right-wing extremism. He is now Chairman of North East Young Conservatives and a Deputy Constituency Chairman. He was once researcher for right-wing MP John Carlisle and conveyor of the pro-*Contra* Committee for a Free Nicaragua.

Hoile is in regular contact with Renamo and in April visited a rebel-held zone of Mozambique, meeting top members of Renamo's National Council. He acknowledges distributing a 7 August Renamo communique in London. He is also in regular touch with Hugo Lambrechts, First Secretary to the South African embassy in London.

Among the Institute's stated aims are to 'fund visits to Renamo-held zones', to 'present alternative perspectives on the Mozambique issue' and to work towards 'securing an end to the Mozambican conflict'. It has produced documents and posters calling for the withdrawal of British support for the Maputo government and for the punishment of Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe for 'war crimes in Mozambique'.

AC 13/9/91