
Pointers

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MOZAMBIQUE: RENAMO RELATIONS

The **British** government is discreetly upgrading its relationship with the *Resistência Nacional Moçambicana* (Renamo) rebels in Mozambique. Britain has observer status on all the committees set up under the country's ceasefire. The new British Ambassador to Maputo, **Richard Edis**, recently travelled to the Renamo base at Maringue to meet its leader **Afonso Dhlakama**. He carried with him a letter from Overseas Development Minister Baroness **Lynda Chalker**, two footballs and a pile of books 'on democracy' for Dhlakama's library. The letter offered Dhlakama a meeting in London with Chalker on his planned tour of Europe. However, unlike President **Joaquim Chissano**, Dhlakama would not be granted a meeting with the Foreign Secretary or the Prime Minister. After the meeting, we understand, Edis was given a ride on the back of Dhlakama's motorcycle to the airstrip. Whitehall is also offering to train Renamo officers once they join the new integrated Mozambican army. But Dhlakama is unhappy that the training would take place at the Nyanga base inside the borders of **Zimbabwe** - Renamo's sworn enemy.
