

## MESSAGE

FROM THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE  
TO THE MOZAMBIKAN PEOPLE

For three years the people of Mozambique, under the leadership of FRELIMO, have been fighting with arms in their hands against the Portuguese colonialists. Three years of tough, difficult armed struggle. Three years during which the people of Mozambique have shown the world their qualities of courage, determination and hard work. The enemy has intensified repression in an attempt to kill our revolution. But the revolution is the whole people in their march towards freedom. Only by killing our whole people could the colonialists kill our revolution. The Portuguese tried to do this. Many people, men, women and children have been murdered by them. But these crimes do not frighten our people nor make them retreat. On the contrary they made the Mozambican people revolt more determinedly and made them fully understand that the liberation of Mozambique will only happen when all the Portuguese colonialists are killed or driven out of our land. Then, holding their guns firmly, our people have thrown themselves more decisively into the struggle against the oppressors. Today, the Mozambican people are winning the war.

FRELIMO is leading the armed struggle of national liberation. It was FRELIMO that, on the 25th of September 1964, proclaimed the beginning of the general armed insurrection of the Mozambican people against Portuguese colonialism, for the conquest of complete independence of Mozambique. In three years of fighting FRELIMO forces have liquidated more than 5,000 Portuguese soldiers, destroyed about 300 military vehicles and trains, shot down 22 aircraft, destroyed various military posts and camps and sabotaged a number of bridges and roads. The casualty rate in FRELIMO forces has been very low because the Guerrillas know the terrain, and they hide, attacking suddenly, by surprise and retreating into the bush again before the enemy has time to reply to their fire.

In this way we have been able to drive out the Portuguese colonialists from large areas of our country. About a fifth of our country has been liberated.

But the purpose of our struggle is not only to destroy. It is first and foremost aimed at building a new Mozambique where there will be no hunger and where all men will be free and equal. We are fighting with arms in our hands because, in order to build the Mozambique that we want, we must first destroy the Portuguese colonial system, which does not allow us to work for the progress of our country and of our people. The Portuguese colonialists want us to work only to fill their own pockets. It is for this reason that we must first kill them or drive them out of Mozambique: only after this will we be able to use for ourselves, our labour and the wealth of our country.

This is now becoming a reality: in the regions reconquered by FRELIMO a great deal of progress has been made in the work of national reconstruction. In these regions (Cabo Delgado and Niassa) we have more than 10,000 Mozambican children in school, many more than there were under the Portuguese. Furthermore, we know that the Portuguese have always prevented African students from going on to more advanced schools and colleges. But FRELIMO now has more than 150 Mozambicans studying in the universities of various countries, and more than 19 have already completed their university course. This means that in the five years since it was formed in 1962 FRELIMO has done far more in the field of education, for the people of Mozambique, than the Portuguese did in 5 centuries.

FRELIMO has created an administrative system in the liberated zones, which has replaced the colonial system.

FRELIMO has promoted the development of production and redistributed conquered land to the people and given them implements with which to cultivate it. In short FRELIMO has created the basis of the free and prosperous Mozambique of tomorrow.

At night in the liberated areas the people of the villages gather by the fire and sing and dance in complete freedom, as in the time before the arrival of the Portuguese. The old people tell the children about the crimes the Portuguese practised against the people, when they occupied that territory. They tell them about episodes in the liberation struggle, the courage of our guerrillas. When the mothers want to frighten their children to

make them quiet, they invoke the name of the Portuguese, as mothers in other countries invoke the bogey or the darkness. the Portuguese oppression in these regions appears now as a shadow which has passed.

But what we have done is still very little. It is very little compared with what still needs to be done. We have destroyed the colonial machine in certain areas - but we have to destroy it completely, everywhere. We have liberated some regions of Mozambique but we must liberate the whole territory of Mozambique. About 800,000 Mozambicans are now free, but we must free all the 7 million which constitute our people. We are giving education to some thousands of young Mozambicans - but we must create conditions under which all Mozambicans will have the opportunity to study. We have liquidated some of the companies which exploit our labour and our wealth - but we must liquidate all the companies which exploit us, all the thieves of our land.

For this to be done we must continue fighting. We must fight without flagging or allowing difficulties to overcome us. There are many difficulties. The guerrillas sometimes have to spend whole days without eating, have to sleep out in the cold and sometimes have to march days or even weeks in order to carry out an attack or an ambush. They suffer from hunger, thirst, cold and fatigue. Sometimes, even, though not often, one of our guerrillas is hit by enemy fire.

The people also suffer in this phase of the liberation struggle. For the enemy intensifies its repression to try to terrorise the population and prevent them from supporting the guerrillas. There are many difficulties. The battle for liberty is not easy. But that liberty which we want to gain is worth all these sacrifices. It is not living, to live like a slave, exploited, beaten, humiliated. Suffering is nothing when in the end we shall gain freedom. The great bulk of the people of Mozambique understand this. That is why every day they come to FRELIMO bases: young men and young women, asking to join the FRELIMO forces to fight for the liberation of Mozambique. This is why the people do not hesitate to take part in the struggle, to give food to the guerrillas, to hide them,

to inform them about enemy movements, even when they know that the colonialists might torture and kill them for doing this.

We must fight. We must go on fighting. All of us, from the North to the South, from the East and to the West of Mozambique. The whole people, without distinction of tribe or religion or colour. In the zones involved in armed struggle everyone must participate directly or indirectly. In the zones where the armed struggle has not yet begun the people must organise themselves and prepare themselves for the time when FRELIMO will start the armed struggle in that zone. FRELIMO militants are already there, working and organising the people, in secret. FRELIMO militants are everywhere, throughout the whole of Mozambique. They keep the oath they made to themselves when they joined FRELIMO:

"Mozambique is my country. My country was invaded by the Portuguese colonialists. The Portuguese colonialists enslaved my people, stole the riches of my land. I, son of Mozambique, nationalist and patriot, in the name of those things most sacred to me - my people, my country - swear to devote all my energies to the service of the Revolution. I shall never vacillate. Until the liberation of my people, my life belongs to the Revolution.