

OFFICIAL
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HERO

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EDITORIAL

The formation of the Mozambique Revolutionary Committee (COREMO) as a true revolutionary movement, which is spearheading the present anti-imperialist struggle in Mozambique paved the way for the development and success of the African struggle in Mozambique, which has now developed into an armed conflict. After an excess period of practical battles against Portuguese imperialists and colonialists in which COREMO guerrillas scored heavy inflicted blows to Portuguese colonial and puppet soldiers despite the fact that COREMO was formed 10 months ago.

In the last 5 months, the forces of COREMO have made tremendous successes in the areas of TETE, ZAMBEZIA, NIASSA and MANICAE SOFALA where COREMO enjoys mass support.

Victories scored by COREMO militants, which were even published by imperialist papers such as London Times of the 4th February 1966, witnessed COREMO's militancy under the objects of which COREMO was formed.

The correctness of COREMO's direction constitutes people's daily firm determination to crush imperialism and colonialism. As a results many detachment units have been formed from local people who have fully endorsed the aims and objects of COREMO towards the total annihilation of imperialism, colonialism and neo-colonialism to attain unconditional independence in Mozambique.

The struggle which is being waged by our heroic people against Portuguese imperialists, colonialists and their allies is not new, as, from the the first arrival of Portuguese strangulators in past centuries, they were met by great resistance waged by our forefathers, and this will end in a final victory for Mozambicans. No doubt Portuguese imperialists and colonialists are armed with modern United States and British weapons, but this will not make the people of Mozambique submit to the Portuguese colonialists. As it is now the case in South Vietnam, Laos, Dominican Republic and other parts of the world where United States, British and other imperialist, colonialist and neo-colonialists countries are fighting unjust life and death wars with modern weapons, these could not defeat the anti-imperialist oppressed peoples of those countries. Therefore, the struggle of the Mozambican people against Portuguese colonialists and other forms of oppression will finally triumph, despite difficulties which we are facing in our struggle against the Portuguese and their allies, as revolutionary history teaches us in our time.

Armed Struggle The Only Way

Contradictions between Portuguese colonialists and their allies on the other hand, and oppressed Africans in the colonies are irreconcilable thus involving a life and death conflict. With the support of the United States, Britain, France, West Germany and other NATO imperialists in their bid to dominate Africa permanently with the pretext to keep Communism out of

Africa, Portugal has not paid attention to the demand for freedom and justice by African people in her colonies of Angola, Mozambique, the so-called Portuguese Guinea, St. Tome-Principe and Cabo Verde, regarding present nuclear age. The only answer to Portuguese colonialists in Mozambique and other parts where they exist is armed struggle.

The reality of our struggle against Portuguese colonialists who are the most vicious history has ever recorded in our time, is that we are denied our fundamental human rights, which we are supposed by all means to obtain through our possible means at our disposal. The form which the Mozambican people have chosen to obtain their fundamental human rights is a historical one which has been used by many nations of Asia, Africa and Latin America who attained their freedom by armed struggle and who have set a shining example to the people of Mozambique who are also engaged in armed struggle in order to regain their freedom. This shining example has created confidence among our masses who have now chosen that form, i.e. "armed struggle". This is the only way which Portugal can understand the demand by the oppressed people for freedom in her colonies who have been subjected to colonial domination for several hundreds of years.

The spirit of the Mozambican people consists of the political consciousness of the people, their courage and readiness to make sacrifices, and defying hardships and death are common in armed struggle to repeal Portuguese colonial and fascist rule in our country.

OUR COUNTRY OR DEATH
WE SHALL WIN

REPORTS OF OPERATIONS IN THE TETE DISTRICT
FROM JANUARY 3rd to MARCH 2nd 1966

The Portuguese Troops suffer Casualties from the
COREMO Guerrilla Forces

Guerrilla operations under the directives of the Military Committee of COREMO, which is only 6 months old, have recorded victorious raids and ambushes against the malodorous and devilish combined Portuguese and foreign troops.

The operations between January 3rd and March 2nd 1966 include the following casualties on the enemy soldiers :

1) In the area of Fingoe, which is under the command of our Deputy Secretary for Defence, 6 African soldiers serving in the Portuguese Army crossed over to COREMO's side with their rifles and ammunition, and in the same area, over 13 Portuguese soldiers were killed by guerrilla forces.

2) In Zumbo area 9 Portuguese soldiers were killed and many others wounded in a number of operations which were under our detachment group; during these operations, a military van was set on fire, and three Portuguese stores were destroyed after failing to persuade the Portuguese armed civilians to surrender their weapons to COREMO guerrillas.

3) In Vila Gamito and Furancungo areas 3 Portuguese soldiers were killed when they were found persuading old men and women who remained in the villages to disclose the whereabouts of COREMO

guerrillas; in the same areas two African secret agents of the Portuguese were arrested and they are still being held by our guerrilla forces pending decision from the Commanding Headquarters.

During all these operations, COREMO has lost one (1) squad leader of the reconnaissance team at an engagement with Portuguese soldiers at Zumbo on the night of January 21st, 1966. And we have also lost three (3) soldiers plus a branch chairman in Fingoe area.

As a result of the numerous defeats suffered by the Portuguese, reactionary troops have continued to slaughter our defenceless people who are firm in their resistance against the Portuguese fascist rule.

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PORTUGAL AND NATO

Portugal has an abnoxious colonial record in Africa. Her colonial policy is one of oppressive and naked slavery.

This policy has left the people of all her main colonies in Africa, namely Mozambique, Angola, Portuguese Guinea and S. Tomé and Príncipe with no alternative but to engage themselves in armed revolutionary struggle, in order to regain their countries and preserve their dignity and resources.

Portugal's colonial policy in Africa is being strongly condemned by the world public opinion, but because of the moral, financial and material support she gets from her NATO allies, she continuously bathes on her defiances. In order to protect their capitals in Mozambique and other colonies still under Portuguese subjugation, the NATO clique, namely : Britain, the United States, France, Belgium, Switzerland and West Germany, offer full support and contribution to enable the Portuguese to carry on their inhuman oppression over millions of the African people of Mozambique toiling under Portuguese colonial rule which is based on a naked slavery. For instance, British capital owns two of the largest sugar concessions including the Sena Sugar Estate and the Matola Oil Refinery. The Mozambique Oil Company and many other enterprises are owned by the United States of America. The Mozambique Coal Company at Moatize and some other industries are owned by Belgium. The three main Banks in Mozambique; The Banco Nacional Ultramarino, are owned

by the Portuguese; Barclays Bank by the British, the Standard Bank by the Racist Government of Verwoerd; the newly established Sociedade Nacional de Refinaria do Petroleo is owned by the Franco-Portuguese Syndicate, and in the Sisal estates by the Franco-Swiss joint capital.

There is no doubt that such investments by the foreign monopolies are the perpetuators of the enslavery and contributing in the long brutal Portuguese colonial rule process over our people. But in spite of this combined oppression by the Portuguese against the people of Mozambique, we assure the progressive forces of the world of our victory in this present critical battle.

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THE PAPER WAR

History has witnessed many forms of struggle, some fierce and authentic, others exaggerated propaganda. Africa, at present, is undergoing its own revolutions and is also producing its own methods.

We, of COREMO, pay tribute to the gallant freedom-fighters who are daily sacrificing their lives for the liberation of our greater Continent. Whilst lauding their struggle, we are compelled to draw the attention of Africa's friends to pseudo-revolutionaries who are busy manufacturing war material in their respective offices in order to hoodwink the world.

To-day, we continuously see the pseudo-revolutionaries issuing the so-called WAR COMMUNIQUES and give fantastic accounts of imaginary war. What are the motives behind the so-called WAR COMMUNIQUES.

A certain individual, with pockets full of miscellaneous currencies and a protruding belly, sits behind an executive desk and conducts imaginary wars in Hollywood style. And the result of this psychiatric vision is a WAR COMMUNIQUE!!!.

Thus war communiqés have become a fashion to-day. One's personal prestige, one's position among international revolutionaries, one's source of income and maintenance have to depend on the number of WAR COMMUNIQUES one issues.

A GOATY BEARDED MOZAMBICAN nationalist, hiding behind Communist screen, has read correctly but interpreted revolutions wrongly. Revolutions are armed struggles fought by the people and not depicted on papers. WAR COMMUNIQUES are Shakespearian in nature - they make good comical tragedies but in no way advance the genuine cause for the liberation.

The art of paper war was invented on the 25th September 1964. Thus it is comparatively speaking a new art. But in its short history has made history. According to this form of war, it is child's play to wipe out any nation one wants to wipe out.

We have seen the destruction of the entire Portuguese nation during this stage drama. According to the WAR COMMUNIQUE, every spear or bullet discharged killed a Portuguese. In some instances one bullet would kill at least 5 Portuguese! We have seen on stage the destruction of the planes by arrows. This art is very profitable but we still have to discover the secret as to where the arrow must hit.

However, as we stated earlier, this form of struggle is new and unique to Africa. We hope that the War Experts who invented this form would further elucidate on this type of warfare for it seems to fascinate people who have some imagination.

All the same many so-called revolutionaries are making a fortune by selling WAR COMMUNIQUES. It is rather unfortunate that COREMO is interested solely in the liberation of Mozambique otherwise it too could get into this profitable business.

AN OPEN LETTER TO WHITE SOUTH AFRICA :

We are fighting you from our Shantytowns, from your prisons, from the gutter where you tried to trample us under. We are deploying everything we have to destroy the edifice of your colour-bound society.

You may bolster your morale by questioning the effectiveness or the reality of the present struggle against your fascist régime. We know you are afraid. We can see your desperation as you barricade yourself behind your massive arsenals. Perhaps boycotts and economic sanctions have not affected you. Perhaps the resistance movement with its sporadic campaign of sabotage may not have shaken you. We started with heavy odds against us. At Sharpeville - remember - we faced your Saracens tanks unarmed.

You cannot deny that never before, except in the case of Nazi Germany has world opinion been so categorical and unanimous as in its rejection of your racism. Your apartheid has been condemned by the world as repugnant to human dignity, "morally grotesque", a perversion of human relationships and a negation of fundamental rights. To us, the 15 million dark-skinned victims, means a nightmare existence of total subjection in a state that denies us our humanity. It means broken homes - even our right to live with our wives is dependent on the whims of a white official. It means children with bloated bellies, dying of malnutrition at three or four years of age. It means police raids and arbitrary arrest - 365,000 a year in Johannesburg

alone - for technical offences which have made us vagrants in our homeland - endorsed from one city for failure to get a job in the prescribed period of 14 days, convicted in the next for being without a job. It means shortlived hopes and permanent fears.

You destroyed pitilessly those who dared to deny or challenge the basic thesis of your policy - "permanent white domination and eternal black subjection". You have outlawed our political party. You have imprisoned, put under house arrest, banned and persecuted our leaders. On Robben Island alone you are holding Mangaliso Robert Sobukwe, our national President and some other 5,000 political prisoners, and reports filtering through from your prisons, tell of unprecedented police brutality on political prisoners, of gruesome and appalling conditions that should shock even hardened racists. At the moment, political trials involving over a thousand people are continuing in various towns and remote villages of South Africa.

Open intimidation, forced confessions, indefinite detentions of witnesses to procure information - these and other "refined" methods of torture are the order of the day in your police state.

As we rotted in your prisons, we made friends with death - remember your slogans "life is cheap among the blacks" and "they have no feeling" - even then we refused to give in to fear or despair.

You have degraded and flaunted all the norms which to-day accept as the basis determining human conduct among men of all nations. You represent the revival of Hitler's discredited myth of the "HERRENVOLK". It is true that there are no gas chambers in South Africa yet, but the toll, in terms of your victims crippled in spirit and in mind and brutally deprived of their essential humanity, has long exceeded the six million mark!

And when the day of reckoning comes and the long debased millions begin to march, you ask us, what shall we do to you or with you? You fear our "excesses". You are afraid of the anarchy which you claim, follows in our footsteps. You do not understand that we owe you no explanation, least of all justification for our actions. Insofar, as you are here, one has to do something about you. Unfortunately we cannot ignore the reality of three million of you!

My generation knows nothing of your churches, your mission schools, your tea parties or your "civilising mission". All we know of you is what we have seen as we stared at you through wire cages and prison bars. We know nothing of your morality. We know your deception. We know your cruelty which makes it easier for us to establish our new morality, unfettered by yesterday's hangover from the hypocrisy and cant of your Christian morality.

We start off on the premise that you have lost all claim to our pity. For three hundred years you have learned nothing

of our humanity, our compassion. You sought at every turn to degrade us, to depersonalise us. Your arrogance and your selfishness have blinded you to the real issues. The question you should be asking yourself is not "what is going to happen to me" but "what can I do to end the horror to repay, even in a small measure, the enormous debt? What can I do to expunge the guilt?" Remember it is still possible that your conduct now may finally determine whether the struggle will degenerate into a crude race war ~~or whether it will be a struggle for justice and social equality.~~

We do not ask for empty gestures or protests from you. We demand commitment to the establishment of a free Azania (South Africa).

OTHERWISE WE DO NOT KNOW WHAT WILL BE DONE WITH YOU ON THE DAY OF RECKONING. YOUR JUDGES WILL BE THE CHILDREN OF THE MEN AND WOMEN YOU MACHINE GUNNED AT SHARPEVILLE AND LANGA AND OF THE COUNTLESS OTHERS, BEFORE AND AFTER, WHO DIED NEEDLESSLY BECAUSE YOU DID NOT CARE.

All we can say now is that you are fortunate that we have not copied your "morals" or upheld your "western civilisation". BECAUSE THEN, BY YOUR STANDARDS YOUR FATE WOULD HAVE BEEN SEALED ALREADY!!!

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THE ABOVE OPEN LETTER WAS READ AT THE 6th ANNIVERSARY
OF SHARPEVILLE AND LANGA MASSACRES ORGANISED BY THE CAIRO
MISSION OF THE PAN AFRICANIST CONGRESS OF AZANIA

(SOUTH AFRICA)