

a discussion guide  
for the film

# **A LUTA CONTINUA**



**The Struggle Continues Con**

The Africa Information Service (A.I.S.) is an organization of Africans, African-Caribbeans and African-Americans who share a commitment to Third World anti-imperialist struggles. We prepare, catalog, and distribute information on African liberation movements and on the struggles to achieve economic independence by the people in those parts of Africa recognized as independent political states. We also provide the people of Africa with information on various struggles being waged by Third World peoples in the Western Hemisphere. Africa is our focal point, but we recognize that the African struggles do not exist in isolation. They are themselves part of a larger movement by Third World peoples.



**Continues Continua Continue**

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# **A LUTA CONTINUA**

(the struggle continues)

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# **A LUTA CONTINUA**

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## **FILM DATA**

Color

16 mm

Optical Sound — English Narration

Running Time: 32 minutes

Footage: 1286

Filmed in the liberated areas of Mozambique  
(Niassa Province, September & October, 1971)

## **CREDITS**

Producer/Director	Robert F. Van Lierop
Cinematographer/Director	Bob Fletcher
Film Editor	Richard Skinner
Sound Editor	George Copeland
Sound	Robert F. Van Lierop
Animator	Richard Skinner
Map	Cheryl Brown
Voice Effects (Proclamation of War & Eduardo Mondlane)	Filipe Nhancle
Written and Narrated by	Robert F. Van Lierop

## **DISTRIBUTORS**

Tricontinental Film Center  
244 West 27th Street  
New York, New York 10001

Africa Information Service  
112 West 120 Street  
New York, New York 10027

## **BASIC STATISTICS (The Three Colonies)**

### **Angola**

area	485,000 sq. miles
population	5,300,000
Europeans	350,000
main products	coffee, sisal, maize, cotton, sugar, diamonds, oil, iron

### **Mozambique**

area	297,731 sq. miles
population	8,000,000
Europeans	200,000
main products	cotton, cashew nuts, sugar, tea, copra, oil, tantalite, coal

### **Guinea (Bissau)**

area	15,400 sq. miles
population	800,000
Europeans	3,000
main products	rice, peanuts, palm oil

(There are no accurate census figures; estimates vary tremendously. White settlement has greatly increased in recent years after intensified effort by the Portuguese government to encourage white settlement as a counter to the liberation movement successes.)





## **THE STRUGGLE IN MOZAMBIQUE**

**A Luta Continua** (The Struggle Continues) is a film and written treatment of the revolutionary armed struggle being waged by the people of Mozambique against Portuguese colonialism and imperialism. Mozambique is strategically situated on the east coast of Southern Africa and is the scene of an important liberation struggle. It borders on Tanzania, Malawi, Zambia, Zimbabwe ("Rhodesia") and South Africa. The development of the struggle to free Mozambique is similar to the development of the struggles to free Angola and Guinea (Bissau), two other Portuguese colonies in Africa. The most obvious common features were: Portugal's limited occupation until late in the 19th century; a thriving slave trade; Portugal's wars of occupation launched after the Congress of Berlin (1884-85); and the degree of Portuguese oppression of the African people.

Peaceful demonstrations and calls for dialogue or reform were met by increased Portuguese violence. Those who questioned the authoritarian colonial regime were beaten, arrested, tortured or shot. In 1960, the people of the Mueda region, in the northern Province of Cabo Delgado, went on a mass unarmed demonstration to the local administrative office. The Portuguese army was called in and more than 500 Africans were murdered.

In 1962, a number of exile political groups (with underground structures inside Mozambique) met in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania to discuss formation of one national party, and the Mozambique Liberation Front (FRELIMO) came into existence.

The first President of FRELIMO was Eduardo Mondlane. At the first Congress he shared with the other delegates the view that revolutionary armed struggle was the only possible road to independence. Preparation for the struggle began immediately.

Volunteers returned to Mozambique to build support for FRELIMO and to prepare and organize the people for war. Other volunteers went abroad for military training. During 1964 the first trained fighters returned to Mozambique and were able to teach others their newly acquired skills.

The first military engagements took place on September 25, 1964, when several small units simultaneously attacked a number of Portuguese posts in the northern parts of the country. During the next few months military actions took place over the three provinces of Cabo Delgado, Niassa and Tete. Large areas of territory were liberated in Cabo Delgado and Niassa.

The guerrillas then withdrew from Tete in order to consolidate the bases in the north. By 1967 the army had grown from the original force of 250 men to a trained and equipped body of 10,000 men and women. Local militia units were formed to take over most of the work of defense, leaving the guerrilla army free for offensive action. In March of 1968, the front in Tete was reopened and the fighting in the north was intensified.

The heaviest fighting is now taking place in Tete, the province where the huge Cabora Bassa Dam project is under construction. This project is being financed to help maintain European domination of Southern Africa. South Africa has sent troops to reinforce the defenses of the area, and the Portuguese have mounted large-scale campaigns against FRELIMO. Their tactics include clearing areas of their inhabitants by putting them behind barbed wire in "strategic hamlets," thus attempting to prevent any contact with FRELIMO, and razing the bush with explosives and napalm to deprive the guerrillas of cover. Despite this, FRELIMO is operating throughout the province, attacking military posts and ambushing supplies going to the Dam site.

The main source of FRELIMO'S strength has been the growth of a strong party structure inside Mozambique, enabling it to withstand the pressures of Portugal's attempts to promote tribalism and subversion. Developments within the movement were crystallized by the Second Congress, held inside Mozambique in July 1968. At this meeting the principles of collective leadership based inside the country were more firmly established.

On February 3, 1969, Eduardo Mondlane was assassinated by Portuguese agents.\* Ultimately Samora Machel was elected President and is presently serving in that capacity.

Portugal is Western Europe's poorest and most backward country. Almost half the population is illiterate. Since the 17th century its economy has been dominated by Britain. Because of its own economic and political weakness, Portugal has not been flexible as have the other former colonial powers who introduced reforms and granted political independence while attempting to maintain economic domination through neo-colonialism. Portugal knows it must maintain a rigid and formal colonial posture in

\* Almost four years later (January 20, 1973) Portuguese agents also assassinated Amilcar Cabral, Secretary-General of the African Party for the Independence of Guinea and the Cape Verde Islands (PAIGC)

order to continue its *own* exploitation of Mozambique, Angola and Guinea (Bissau).

Therefore, Portugal maintains, in Africa, the world's largest colonial empire. In doing so it continuously defies United Nations resolutions and international public opinion.

Portugal, a non-industrial nation, could not fight one, let alone three, colonial wars were it not for support it receives from the NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) powers — principally the United States, Britain, France and West Germany — as well as from the "Rhodesian" regime of Ian Smith and South Africa. The "Rhodesian" and South African regimes are primarily interested in supporting Portugal because they know that liberated Mozambique and Angola could be used as supply bases and staging areas by Zimbabwean, Namibian, and South African guerrillas striking to liberate their respective homelands. In addition they are aware of the psychological impact that successes against Portugal would have on the African populations of Zimbabwe, Namibia and South Africa, and the economic impact that the loss of Portuguese controlled ports would have on the stability of the racist regimes.

The NATO powers are backing Portugal because a large number of Western European and North American corporations benefit from the exploitation of the people of Southern Africa. Most receive a return four or five times greater on their investments in Southern Africa than on domestic investments.

Gulf Oil's operations in Angola contribute approximately \$50 million per year to Portugal's war effort. Recently General Tire and Rubber Company and General Motors signed agreements to open production plants in Mozambique. Bethlehem Steel is about to begin prospecting for minerals in Mozambique. And Caterpillar Tractor Co. recently sold more than 40 pieces of earth-moving equipment for use in building the Cabora Bassa Dam. Capping this recent economic support for Portugal is the Azores Agreement under which the United States will provide Portugal with long-term economic aid totalling \$436 million.

Portugal is presently engaged in three bloody colonial wars.\* The pattern of helicopter assaults and bombings, the use of napalm and herbicides, and the

\*In 1961 the struggle to liberate Angola was launched by the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA).

In 1963 the struggle to liberate Guinea (Bissau) was launched by the African Party for the Independence of Guinea and the Cape Verde Islands (PAIGC).



forcing of African populations into "strategic hamlets," all ring of America's recent experiences in Vietnam. Portugal has even received combat assistance from South African and "Rhodesian" troops. Every effort must be made to build a broadly based mass movement in support of the people in Mozambique, Angola, and Guinea (Bissau) in the front lines of our struggle against racism, colonialism, and imperialism.

### **SUGGESTED QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION**

1. The film opens with a short-wave broadcast by Radio South Africa commenting on the uprising at Attica Prison. What is the connection between the revolution in Mozambique and the uprising at Attica Prison? What is South Africa's interest in these events?
2. What are the class contradictions of Portuguese society and how does Portugal attempt to export them to the colonies in Africa?
3. In what way does Portugal act as an agent for western industrial interests in Mozambique, Angola and Guinea (Bissau)?
4. The Cabora Bassa Dam is viewed by the people of Mozambique as an oppressive instrument and symbol of the Portuguese colonial presence. What other projects of this sort are you personally familiar with and how do they serve a similar or dissimilar function?
5. What other "settlement" schemes can you think of that have acted against the interests of the local population living in a specific area?
6. On June 16, 1960 more than 500 people were shot down and killed by Portuguese soldiers after assembling for a peaceful demonstration. What was the significance of this action to the launching of the revolutionary armed struggle more than four years later?
7. In the section of the film that discusses the role of women there is a dance sequence. Discuss the significance of the dance and any unique things you observed.
8. Discuss the meaning of revolution as a *process* rather than an event and the analogy to it of a long-distance relay team.
9. In the section on education the narration mentions that teachers from FRELIMO do not strike over issues that effect *only their own* economic interests at the expense of the community. Does this statement mean that *all* strikes are bad? Describe other types of strikes or workers' actions that are progressive or revolutionary.
10. Do you see anything in this film that reminds you of other revolutionary movements that you have heard of?

11. Discuss how the revolution in Mozambique has changed the pattern of life of people living in liberated areas.
12. The film closes with the following quotation from the remarks of Samora Machel, President of FRELIMO. Discuss:

"When we march, we feel stimulated and content, because during the march we learn about ourselves and we resolve any individual problems. During the march we perspire as a group and each drop of sweat fertilizes our soil and consolidates our unity. We do not have airplanes or cars. But we have something else — the numerous mobile or two legs. The cannon, mortars, mines and grenades which destroy the enemy, are all transported by the numerous mobile. Here we can measure the importance of mankind. Man is strong . . . stronger than an elephant, stronger than a car! Man is the decisive factor in a war of national liberation!"

### **SUGGESTED ACTION IN SUPPORT OF THE LIBERATION MOVEMENTS**

- 1) Send direct financial contributions to (checks only):
 

FRELIMO P.O. Box 15274 Dar es Salaam, Tanzania	MPLA P.O. Box 20793 Dar es Salaam, Tanzania
PAIGC P.O. Box 298 Conakry Republic of Guinea	
- 2) Organize educational programs in your local community. Speakers and educational materials are available from the Africa Information Service.
- 3) Raise the issue of Southern Africa and Portugal's colonial wars within every organization that you are a member of. Urge your organization to attempt to build political and diplomatic support for the liberation movements.
- 4) Encourage friends, family, and associates to avoid travel to Portugal, "Rhodesia," or South Africa.
- 5) Boycott all Portuguese, "Rhodesian" and South African goods.
- 6) Organize or participate in mass political actions against identifiable imperialist targets (e.g. corporations with investments in Southern Africa; communications outlets which have failed to report on the wars of national liberation; organizations or institutions which are either indifferent to the wars or support Portugal, "Rhodesia" or South Africa).

## **PARTIAL LIST OF ORGANIZATIONS WORKING ON ISSUES RELATED TO SOUTHERN AND COLONIZED AFRICA**

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Africa Information Service  
112 West 120th Street  
New York, New York 10027

Africa Activist Association  
African Studies Center  
University of California  
Los Angeles, California

African Information Center  
1016 East 75th Street  
Chicago, Illinois

African Liberation Support Committee/Boston  
25 Holyoke  
Boston, Massachusetts

African Liberation Support Committee/New York  
261 West 125th Street  
New York, New York 10027

African Liberation Support Committee/Washington  
1648 Roxanna Road, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20012

Afrikan Information Bureau  
P.O. Box 1554  
East Lansing, Michigan 48823

Afrikan Youth Movement for Liberation and Unity  
(House of Kuumba)  
108 West 112th Street  
New York, New York 10025

Afro-Asian Peoples Liberation Movement  
144 Leicester Causeway  
Coventry, England

Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee  
Montreal, Canada

Afro-Asian Peoples Solidarity Organization  
89 Abdel Aziz Al Saud  
Cairo, Egypt

All African News Service  
P.O. Box 21366  
Greensboro, North Carolina 27420

American Committee on Africa  
164 Madison Avenue  
New York, New York 10016

Angola Comité  
Da Costastraat 88  
Amsterdam, Holland

Anti-Apartheid Movement  
89 Charlotte Street  
London, W. 1, Great Britain

Black Concern  
Box 513  
Bronx, New York 10472

Black Unity and Freedom Party  
15a Lausanne Road  
Peckham, London, S.E. 15  
Great Britain

Chicago Area Committee for the Liberation of Angola,  
Mozambique, and Guiné  
2546 North Halsted  
Chicago, Illinois 60614

Committee for a Free Mozambique  
616 West 116th Street, #1-A  
New York, New York 10027

Committee for Freedom in Mozambique, Angola, and Guiné  
531 Caledonian Road  
London, N.7  
Great Britain

Interreligious Foundation for Community Organization  
Room 560, 475 Riverside Drive  
New York, New York 10027

Liberation Support Movement/California  
Bay Area Branch, Box 814  
Oakland, California 94604

Liberation Support Movement/Canada  
Information Center, Box 338  
Richmond, B.C., Canada

Madison Area Committee on Southern Africa  
731 State Street  
Madison, Wisconsin 53703

Medisch Komitee Angola  
sekr. Minahassastraat 1  
Amsterdam, Holland

Pan-African Information Bureau  
c/o Nairobi Book Store  
1621 Bay Road  
East Palo Alto, California

Pan-African Liberation Committee  
P.O. Box 514  
Brookline Village  
Brookline, Massachusetts 02147

Pan-African Skills Project  
Room 560, 475 Riverside Drive  
New York, New York 10027

Pan-African Students Organizations in the Americas  
PASOA  
304 Ferris Booth Hall, Columbia University  
New York, New York 10027

Southern African Liberation Committee  
310 Triphammer Road  
Ithaca, New York 14850

Washington Office on Africa  
110 Maryland Avenue, N.E.  
Washington, D.C. 20002

Southern Africa Committee/New York  
244 West 27th Street, 5th Floor  
New York, New York 10001

Southern Africa Committee/South  
213 Gregson Street  
Durham, North Carolina 27701

Youth Organization for Black Unity  
Box 20826  
Greensboro, North Carolina 27420



## SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

### Books

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\* American Committee on Africa, *Allies in Empire: The U.S. and Portugal in Africa*. Africa Today (New York).

\* American Committee on Africa, *Apartheid and Imperialism: U.S. Corporate Involvement in South Africa*. Africa Today (New York).

Barnet, Donald, *The Revolution in Angola*. MPLA; *Life Histories and Documents*. Liberation Support Movement, Bobbs-Merrill.

Boavida, Americo, *Angola: Five Centuries of Portuguese Colonialism*. Liberation Support Movement (Vancouver). (Limited edition.)

Cabral, Amilcar, *Revolution in Guiné*. Monthly Review Press (New York, 1969).

\* Committee for Freedom in Mozambique, Angola, Guiné, *Our People Are Our Mountains*. (London). (Collection of speeches by Amilcar Cabral.)

\* Committee for Freedom in Mozambique, Angola, Guiné, *War on Three Fronts*. (London).

\* Corporate Information Center, *Gulf Oil: Portuguese Ally in Angola*. (New York).

Davidson, Basil, *In the Eye of the Storm: Angola's People*. Committee for Freedom in Mozambique, Angola, Guiné (London, 1972).

Duffy, James, *Portugal in Africa*. Penguin African Library (Baltimore).

Minter, William, *Portuguese Africa and the West*. Penguin African Library (London, 1972).

Mondlane, Eduardo, *The Struggle for Mozambique*, Penguin African Library (Baltimore, 1969).

Rodney, Walter, *How Europe Underdeveloped Africa*. Tanzania Publishing House, Dar es Salaam; Bogle L'Overture (London, 1972).

\* Pamphlets

## Periodicals

*Africa Today*, c/o Center for International Race Relations,  
University of Denver, Denver, Colorado 80210.

*All Africa News Service*, P.O. Box 21366, Greensboro, N.C.  
27420.

*Anti-Apartheid News*, 89 Charlotte Street, London W.I.,  
England.

*Facts and Reports*, Angola Comité, Da Costastraat 88,  
Amsterdam, Holland.

*Guerrilheiro*, Committee for Freedom in Mozambique, Angola  
and Guinea, 531 Caledonian Road, London N7, England.

*IFCO News*, Interreligious Foundation for Community  
Organization, 475 Riverside Drive, New York, New York  
10027.

*MACSA Newsletter*, Madison Area Committee on Southern  
Africa, 731 State Street, Madison, Wisconsin 53703.

*News & Notes*, Committee for a Free Mozambique, 616 West  
116th Street, New York, New York 10027.

*Southern Africa*, Southern Africa Committee, 244 West 27th  
Street, New York, New York 10001.

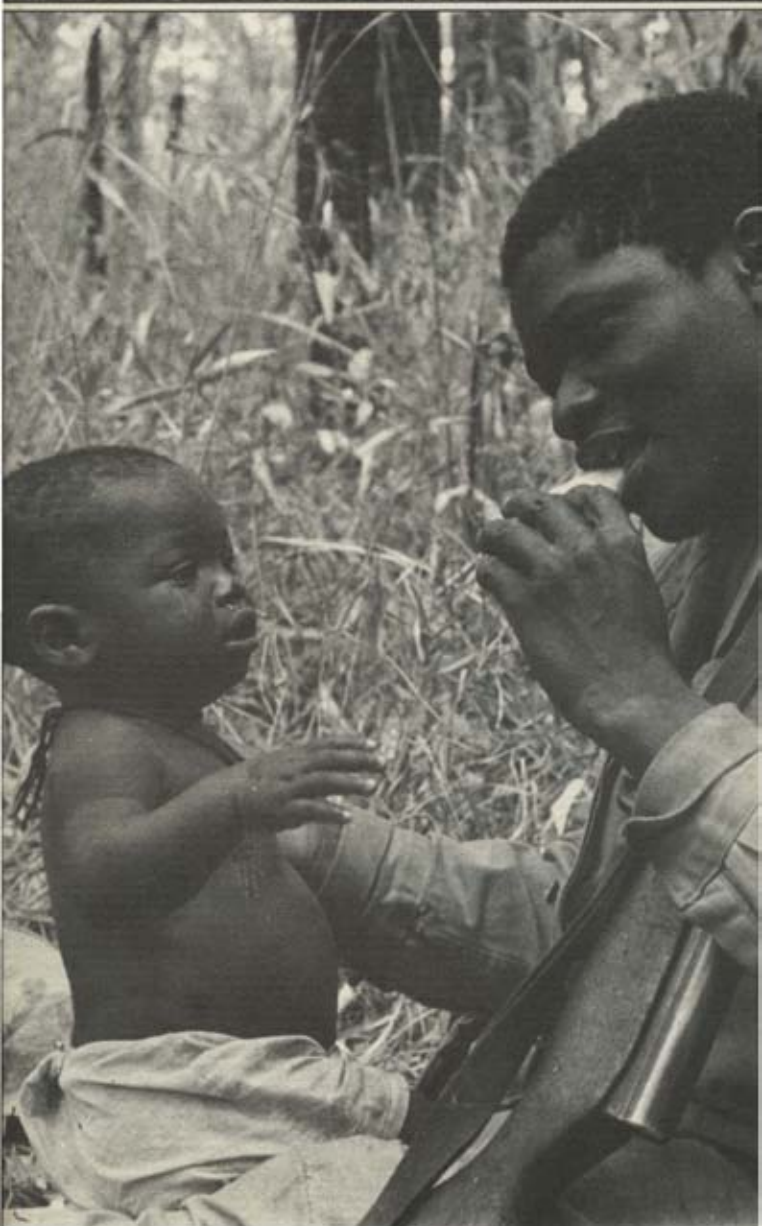
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