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SEPTEMBER 25 DAY OF SOLIDARITY WITH THE PEOPLE OF MOZAMBIQUE



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25th of September — Day of the Mozambican Revolution

"Our life is the war. If we sleep two or three days without hearing of the war it seems that we have no life. It is the knowledge that in such a place the Portuguese were ambushed and defeated that gives us life. When there is a fight we are able to tell 'now it was our fighters who fired, now it was the enemy who fired'. When our weapons sing our hearts become filled with joy, because that means that the enemy are feeling our force, our children are teaching them that our country wants to be free and will be free." (KAPINGO NAMUMBI, FRELIMO branch of Diencar).

SOLIDARITY WITH MOZAMBIQUE

Sept. 25th begins a week of solidarity with the people of Mozambique. On that day in 1964 armed struggle was launched against Portuguese oppression.

☐ Mozambique is a Portuguese colony. As a colony its land and people have served the interests of a white Portuguese aristocracy. Portugal, however, has also suffered a kind of "colonization" by the powerful industrial concerns of Europe and the U.S. It is these concerns that finally benefit from colonialism in Mozambique. The people of Mozambique are now fighting for their liberation and they are winning, but their enemies are many.

Mozambicans know that their most immediate enemy is the Portuguese army. But they also realize that their struggle is against more than a few out-dated Portuguese colonialists. Defeat of Portugal is seen as the first step to liberation, not the last.

Mozambique will also have to deal with the interests that are now behind Portugal and that will definitely try to fill the void left by Portugal's defeat. Perhaps they will use force, perhaps diplomatic pressures, perhaps complicated 'aid' packages to tighten economic ties...something will be tried. It is against Mozambique's other more elusive, more subtle enemies that the long struggle will be waged and the need for allies will be the greatest.

Solidarity with Mozambique is expressed in the U.S. by our understanding how much we have in common with these people. We are all in the same fight against the same enemy. We just happen to be at different ends of the same system.

MOZAMBIQUE- PORTUGUESE RELATIONS

Four hundred and sixty-five years ago Portugal set-out to 'civilize' Mozambique: a country twice the size of California, tropical to semi-tropical climate, many known resource deposits, and very good harbor sites. Today, 140,000 white settlers rule and exploit 7,000,000 Mozambican. The results of this colonial situation are sadly typical.

- Only 1.8% of The Mozambican people are literate. No African has ever finished secondary school within Mozambique.
- The 'natives' have been divided into two groups: the 'assimilados' (those granted a kind of Portuguese citizenship) and the 'indigenas' (those still to be civilized.) In order to be 'assimilated' Africans must learn to read, write and speak Portuguese fluently, sever all tribal connections, have acceptable employment, and in general adopt the habits and customs of the Portuguese. Since 1917 1,000 Africans have been elevated to this status by their 'civilizers'.
- Africans are denied the right of assembly in groups of over five for political, trade union or cultural purposes.
- Pass books must be carried at all times. All x travel in their own land must k first be cleared with Portuguese colonial administrators.
- Any Mozambican not currently employed by some white is legally classified as idle. Anyone idle is subject to being rounded up for forced labor at any time. Forced laborers earn on the average \$1.40/month on plantations.
- 100,000 forced laborers are sent to South Africa every year to work in the Transvaal gold mines. Since 1902, 1,000,000 Mozambicans are estimated to have died in those mines.

FRELIMO

On Sept. 25, 1964 FRELIMO (Frente de Libertacao de Mozambique) began armed

struggle against the Portuguese colonial forces. A small band staged a night attack against the Portuguese colonial office at Chai, in Cabo Delgado province. Continual guerrilla pressure combined with growing local support drove Portugal first to strategic hamlets and in some cases forced them to evacuate large areas.

By 1968 FRELIMO had liberated a fifth of the territory ~~of~~ in the north of Mozambique (see map) and 700,000 of the people. Important military campaigns are now being waged to extend that control in other provinces. The popular army now numbers more than 10,000 people.

The liberated territories serve as a base of strength for the military arm of FRELIMO. More important inside these territories a new way of life is already being built by the people.

Shortly before his assassination by the Portuguese in 1969, Eduardo Mondlane, the first President of FRELIMO, sketched FRELIMO's philosophy as follows:

1) FRELIMO is a democratic movement... (2) socialism will be the economic system followed... (3) social welfare of the people as a whole, not of a small group of privileged individuals and their families, will receive the energetic commitment of the leaders of FRELIMO as befits a movement guided by socialism.

FRELIMO began educating people in 1962, two years before armed struggle began. Inside the liberated territories schools have been set up. Over 20,000 pupils (soldiers and adults included) are in these schools. Agriculture has also been reorganized. Cooperatives are being encouraged. People are growing food for their own use rather than for the Portuguese. Health clinics, field hospitals and first-aid stations have also been set-up in many places for the first time.

PORTUGAL'S EFFORT

A dramatic fact...Portugal could not be fighting wars in each of its three colonial possessions (as well asx Mozambique, Portugal is fighting in Angola and Guinee(Bissau)) without the military aid that has been given to it. The aid has come from the U.S., Britain, France, West Germany, South Africa and other 'free' world countries. The excuse for giving the aid is that Portugal is a member of NATO. Theoretically, Portugal is prohibited from using these arms in Africa, but does so quite openly. This is well documented by the fragments of U.S. bombers and Napalm casings found there.

The U.S. has supplied Portugal with large amounts of strategically important arms. Perhaps the most strategic have been the planes, given their importance in fighting widely dispersed guerrilla movements (something the U.S. knows well from experience.) Under the American Military Assistance program alone Portugal has gotten 50 F-84G Thunderjets, 50,F-86F Sabre Jets, 30 Cessna jets (used extensively in Viet Nam), several hundred North American Harvard T-3 and T-6 planes, 30 Lockheed bombers, and many others. The CIA has also supplied 20 B-26 bombers (NY Times, Nov.5, 1965.) To guarantee maximum effectiveness we have also sent along Napalm with the planes.

The developed countries of the west have joined forces with South Africa to prop up the sagging colonial regimes of Portugal in Africa. South Africa has contributed a battalion of troops and air support to the fight in Mozambique. This is a clear example of international cooperation to defeat liberation movements which seriously threaten the vested interests of the capitalist world.

SOLIDARITY

Things are amazingly connected. The Oil from Venezuela, refined in New Jersey, fueling planes that will drop bombs on the people of Mozambique. The Governor of New York and his two brothers, the Governor of Arkansas and the Chairman of the Board of the second largest bank in the world, control that oil company. Now the

brothers may not really have anything against the people of Mozambique, but, you see, their company lives on profits, and people's liberation and profit don't mix well...and so Portugal is propped up until some better solution (for the Rockefeller's not for the people) comes along.

Our enemy is the same. Until the Rockefellers, and the Mellons, and the Morgans are defeated, until capitalism is defeated, our struggle will go on. All power to the people. Solidarity with the people of Mozambique.