

MOZAMBIQUE



25 september

Mozambique

The territory of Mozambique lies on the East Coast of Africa, between latitudes 11° and 27°. In the North it borders on Tanzania; in the West on Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe; and in the South-West, on the Republic of South Africa. It has an area of 301,400 square miles and a population of over 7 million.

For many years colonised by Portugal, the Mozambican people are now organising themselves: they have formed a united front against Portuguese colonialism and have launched an armed struggle for national liberation.

The constitution of FRELIMO

In June 1962 three Mozambican nationalist organisations, MANU, UDENAMO, and UNAMI agreed to unite and create a common front to fight against Portuguese colonialism. This is how FRELIMO was born — Frente de Libertação de Mocambique — which held its first congress in the following September.

Two years of preparation

Knowing from experience that colonialist repression meets every demand for independence, FRELIMO, although still offering to negotiate, began a campaign of general mobilisation and training for all sections of the population in preparation for the independence struggle. Special attention has been given to the formation of military cadres, and to the preparation of the material conditions necessary for the launching of an armed struggle for national liberation.

25th of September, 1964

"... MOZAMBICANS !

Workers and peasants, workers in the mines, on the railways, in the harbours and in the factories, intellectuals, civil servants, Mozambican soldiers in the Portuguese army, students, men, women and young people, patriots,

IN THE NAME OF ALL OF YOU

FRELIMO TODAY SOLEMNLY PROCLAIMS THE GENERAL ARMED INSURRECTION OF THE MOZAMBICAN PEOPLE AGAINST PORTUGUESE COLONIALISM FOR THE ATTAINMENT OF THE COMPLETE INDEPENDENCE OF MOZAMBIQUE.

Our fight must not cease before the total liquidation of Portuguese colonialism..."

It was in these terms that, on the 25th of September, 1964 FRELIMO called on the people of Mozambique to take up arms against Portuguese colonialism.



The 25th of September, day of international solidarity with the struggling people of Mozambique

The Conference for Afro-Asian Peoples' Solidarity, held at Winneba in 1965, and the Conference of the Three Continents, held in January 1966 in Havana, have proclaimed September the 25th as the International Day of Solidarity with the Mozambican People.

3 years of armed struggle

Three years have passed since that day. During these years of hardship and difficulty, the Mozambican people have moved a long way. In many regions of our country the colonialists have been ejected and our people there have regained their dignity and exercise full sovereignty. Our military campaign presses on, each time to narrow the field of oppression by the colonial machine. Already in the two Northern provinces of Mozambique — Cabo Delgado and Niassa — which can count an area of 150,000 square miles and a population of about 800,000, very extensive regions have been liberated.

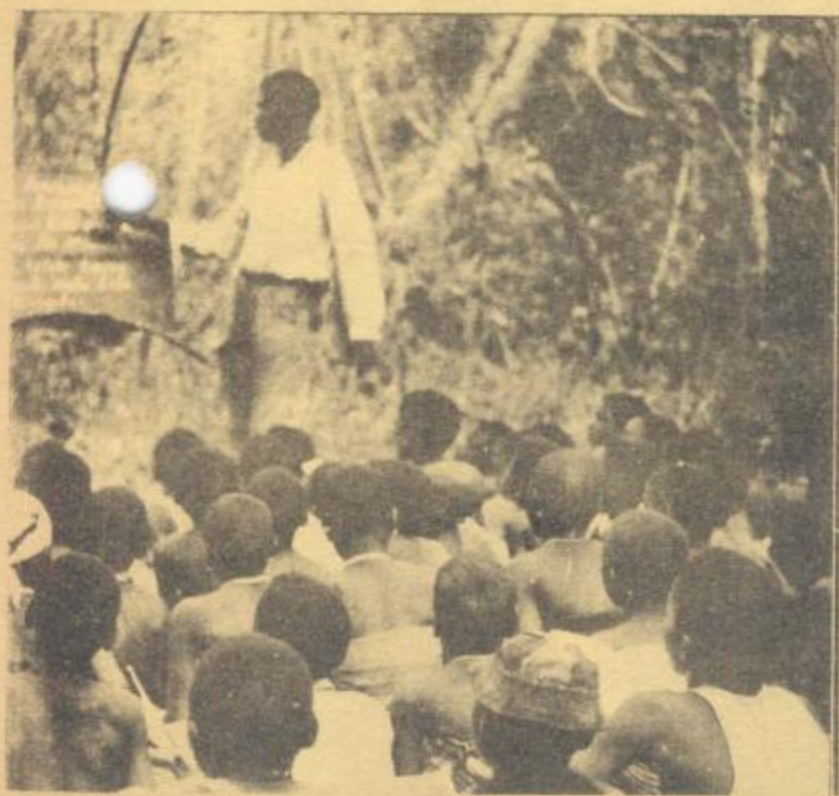


National reconstruction in the semi-liberated areas

In these areas FRELIMO is organising educational services, medical assistance, production, administration and justice. In Cabo Delgado alone, 7,000 children were receiving primary education during the last school year. In agriculture very encouraging results have been achieved. The colonial system of compulsory cultivation has been stopped and is now replaced with varied subsistence farming, serving the real needs of the population; as a result, the cultivated area is now much larger than it ever was under the colonial administration.

FRELIMO : Perspectives

Victory is certain. Every day brings us news of success for the Mozambican people and of crushing defeats for the army of occupation. The political conscience of our people is developing every day along with our military science and the number of our troops. The day is not far now when liberty will once more flourish throughout Mozambique.



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