

To the Portuguese People

FRELIMO

Resolution of First Congress of FRELIMO held in Dar es Salaam on 23-28 September 1962.

In these grave hours in the history of Mozambique, FRELIMO turns to you.

The Mozambican people, inspired by profoundly human sentiments of freedom, dignity, and justice, is firmly decided to struggle, if necessary with the holocaust of its own life, for the conquest of national independence. The Portuguese government, extending its tentacles, maintains a fierce oppression of the people of our country. Our people continue to be obliged to do forced labour. The fascist colonial government of Portugal pursues its policy of expropriating our lands and exploiting the labour of our people. The benefits of this exploitation go only to Portuguese colonialist circles.

To try to destroy our love of liberty, your government does not hesitate to massacre the Mozambican people: Mueda in June 1960 and Xinavane in February 1961 are deeds of barbaric reaction by the colonial fascist government to the legitimate aspirations of our people.

Nonetheless, not only Mozambique, but also Angola, Guinea, Cape Verde, S. Tome e Principe desire to be free and independent. It was to try to stifle the will of the Angolan people to be independent that the government led by Mr. Salazar launched a war in Angola. But the Angolan people did not succumb and will not succumb, nor will the Guinean people. On the contrary, colonialist repression leads only to an ever stronger reaction on the part of the collective peoples of Mozambique, Angola, 'Portuguese' Guinea, Cape Verde, and S. Tome e Principe.

On the other hand, the situation of the Portuguese government in the international arena is one of almost total isolation, supported totally only by the fascist governments of South Africa and Spain. In effect, a horrified world conscience is reacting against the barbaric actions perpetrated by the Portuguese in Angola and now in 'Portuguese' Guinea. FRELIMO declares today it will not be responsible for any loss of Portuguese life or property as a result of the potential conflict that the Portuguese government is creating between the African and Portuguese peoples in Mozambique.

The Mozambican people hope, therefore, that the Portuguese people will

assume, in this conflict which opposes the Mozambican people and the fascist colonial Portuguese administration, a position worthy of its noble democratic traditions, and help to keep war from breaking out in Mozambique.