

COMMITTEE FOR A FREE MOZAMBIQUE - - - News and Notes, No. 1., 11/70MESSAGE OF THE PRESIDENT OF FRELIMO on SEPTEMBER 25

(excerpts from the Message to the Mozambican People, FRELIMO Militants and the fighters of the People's Forces for the Liberation of Mozambique delivered by the President of FRELIMO, Comrade Samora M. Machel on the 25th of September, 1970.)

Comrades,

Six years of war is not a long time nor a short time; we are not at the beginning, but there is a great deal to do before we reach the end. We have shown that we cannot be beaten, but we still have to prove that we can force a victory. A mango does not become a great tree in its first day, but like a growing mango tree, we are deeply rooted in the soil that is our people, and the masses are now tasting the first fruits.

We have come a long way, from division, uncertainty and ignorance. We started with nothing and we have turned ourselves into a nation; a nation where before there were tribes. Fighters have sprung from the sons of peasants, workers and labourers, from the mines and plantations. From illiteracy we have made schools, from sickness, hospitals. Where before forced labour reigned, cooperatives are growing; production, which was once a means of exploiting the people has now become the people's strength.

Of all the things we have done, the most important, the one that history will record as the principal contribution of our generation, is that we understood how to turn the armed struggle into a Revolution; that we realised that it was essential to create a new mentality in order to build a new society.

And all this cost blood. This is why comrades have died to free the land, comrades died so that chains should fall from the people, comrades died so that cooperatives and schools and hospitals could be born, comrades died so that no one in our midst should hate the new world we have created.

This is why, in speaking of the 25th September, we speak also of those who fell, sacrificing themselves so that the revolution should be a reality. And we speak also of EDUARDO CHIVAMBO MONDLANE who, with his inspired foresight, above all understood and absorbed the need for Revolution and for this reason was so hated by the enemy.

The sixth year of the war was above all the YEAR OF REVOLUTION, that is the year in which the militants and the masses accepted the necessity of radically transforming the socio-economic structures of Mozambique and the vital importance of eliminating old ideas in order to create a new mentality. The year in which the revolution grew deep roots among the leaders, the militants and the people.

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Other essential facts characterised the changes we undertook. In the midst of the Mozambique People's Liberation Forces (F.P.L.M.), the level of political consciousness of the fighters was raised to the point at which they were able to understand the fundamental meaning of enemy action. One of the decisive factors in the defeat of Kaulza Arriaga's counter-offensive during the dry season, was the ability of our fighters and cadres to take in the real meaning of enemy plans and to detect its strategic orientation. The enemy plans were then shown up to the masses and the Portuguese army was turned into mince-meat by our weapons, its advance was transformed into a bloody fight.

. . . . The second characteristic of our present situation is the political maturity of the people in the liberated areas who are really taking the tasks of the struggle into their own hands, becoming the real creative force in their own history, the sea in which the enemy has drowned. The enemy showed clearly that by acting against the fundamental interests of the people - and that was the real meaning of the action let loose last May - it acted like an earthworm penetrating an ant heap. By attacking the liberated zones the Portuguese army turned itself into an enormous target for the combined attacks of the armed people and the F.P.L.M.

This close co-operation between the F.P.L.M. and the people is the proof and the result of the complete unity between FRELIMO and the masses, of the close relations between the rank and file and the leadership. . . . At this level we want to emphasise the great importance of the selection of women for top leadership positions and for the higher tasks of the Party and the F.P.L.M. This last fact is a good sign of the success achieved in the promotion of women and while much remains to be done in this direction, it is clear that we are on the right road. . . .

Our victories have contributed to making our struggle better known abroad. . . . The major defeats they /the Portuguese/ suffered in the last year justifies their concern. From the 25th September last year to the middle of August this year, about 2,000 Portuguese soldiers were killed in action, 5 aeroplanes and 2 helicopters were shot down by our forces, more than 300 military vehicles of all types were destroyed, 64 bases and military posts were attacked by our fighters and wholly or partially destroyed. . . .

The task of this seventh year is determined by the situation and by our objective. . . . At this level our main task is to make FRELIMO more and more into the organised vanguard of the people. For the formation of this vanguard our action must increase vigorously in various sectors. . . . In the creation of a new mentality the militant must be in his behaviour and ideas, the beacon that guides the people. . . . Relying on the People and learning with them, submitting ourselves to the fire of criticism and practice, we will build a true vanguard; every militant must learn to combine constantly the 3 golden rules of conduct: study, production, combat. . . .

In foreseeing the development of the colonial and imperialist

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aggression against us, we must tighten still more our relations with the people. The fighters, as the crocodile does, must draw the enemy into the water that is the people, and there on our strong ground, surrounded by the people, the enemy is condemned to destruction.

In order to do this, our people, who have already grasped the revolutionary dimension of our struggle must now, faced with the imperialist threat, grasp the strategic and economic dimension of our country, which in the last analysis explains the imperialist attitude toward us.

. . . . In order to face up better to the threat hanging over us, in order to mobilise even further the energies of our people, we must destroy the very base of colonial and imperialist domination in our country. We want, so to speak, to prevent the struggle being circumscribed in this or that province; it must be extended to the whole country to reach the enemy's most sensitive and vulnerable centres. Against colonialist and imperialist aggression in Mozambique the immense fire of a people's war must spread throughout the whole country. . . . We are not isolated in our war. We assure all of them /the progressive peoples and forces throughout the world/ that our struggle will be spread even further and that our people will accept more completely their national and international responsibilities, in this way providing their concrete contribution to the common struggle.

. . . . A LUTA CONTINUA! INDEPENDENCIA OU MORTE VENCEREMOS!

(excerpts taken from the Message attached to the MOZAMBIQUE REVOLUTION Official organ of FRELIMO, July-September, 1970, No. 44).

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