

SEPTEMBER, 1971 # 8

Information is ammunition for your struggle. A fighter without ammunition is not a fighter. And for you, a fighter without information cannot speak.

Samora M. Machel, President of FRELIMO to CFM delegation, Dar es Salaam, 8/71.

CFM MEMBERS VISIT FRELIMO HEADQUARTERS

Six CFM members traveled to East Africa this summer and visited FRELIMO headquarters in Dar Es Salaam. The FRELIMO comrades found time to give us a warm welcome despite a busy schedule compounded by visits from many support groups like ours. President Samora Machel, who spends most of his time inside Mozambique, was in Dar for three days. On August 19th we met with him for about two hours, an occasion which, in his words, was "part of the process of the struggle because we are discussing how to destroy imperialism and then how we can continue living." On August 23rd we visited the FRELIMO Secondary School and Teacher Training Course in Bagamoyo, located 45 miles from Dar Es Salaam.

President Samora is a warm and humane person. His face is extremely expressive and his eyes look directly at you when he speaks; we felt a close personal contact with him even though he spoke through translators. Samora speaks poetically, using concrete, earthy images, for example, "Imperialism must be fought the same way we eat bread: we don't put it all in our mouth (at once) but slice by slice." It is easy to imagine him explaining the struggle to large gatherings of Mozambican people.

"OUR STRUGGLE IS A PEOPLE'S STRUGGLE...OUR SOLDIERS ARE THE SONS OF THE PEOPLE. WITHOUT THE PEOPLE THERE ARE NO SOLDIERS IN FRELIMO. THE SOLDIERS ARE THE PEOPLE WITH GUNS."

Samora's humanism reflects the spirit of the movement which he leads. FRELIMO's emphasis is on people, its enemy is exploitation in all its forms -- colonialism, imperialism, capitalism, tribalism, oppression of women, and racism.

"WE STRESS THAT OUR STRUGGLE IS NOT AGAINST A COLOR, OR AGAINST A RACE, BECAUSE EXPLOITERS ARE NOT ONLY THE WHITE MAN; AN EXPLOITER IS AN EXPLOITER NO MATTER WHERE HE IS FROM. THERE ARE NO BLACK PARASITES OR WHITE PARASITES... ALL PARASITES FEED FROM BLOOD AND THEY MUST BE FOUGHT... IN MOZAMBIQUE WE FIGHT AGAINST ANYBODY WHO WANTS TO EXPLOIT WHETHER HE BE WHITE OR YELLOW OR BLACK BECAUSE EXPLOITATION IS ORGANIZED ROBBERY -- A VERY WELL ORGANIZED SYSTEM OF ROBBERY."

Such "robbery" is being eliminated through the institutions



CFM members talk with Mario Sevei, FRELIMO Secondary School Headmaster

FRELIMO is building in Free Mozambique. "Individual production... which encourages the profit mentality" is being destroyed; in its place production is being organized cooperatively and produce is distributed equitably to satisfy the basic needs of the people. Political as well as economic institutions are being set up to meet the needs of the people. Through local committees and mass meetings the people participate in making decisions which affect their lives. Political commissars, linking the masses with the party leadership and with the army, ensure that decisions are always made in the interests of the people.

We learned that FRELIMO's humanism extends to its view of Portuguese soldiers. FRELIMO recognizes that they too, are "sons of the people" and that they are conscripted and forced to fight for a colonialist regime. Portuguese soldiers who surrender or desert are seen as "natural allies" and even those who are taken prisoner are treated with a policy of clemency.

"WE IN FRELIMO SAY THAT THERE IS NOT ONE FRONT WHICH IS MORE IMPORTANT AND ANOTHER WHICH IS LESS. EACH OF THE FRONTS IS IMPORTANT; ESPECIALLY WHEN THE PEOPLE WHO ARE ENGAGED IN THE SPECIFIC TASKS OF EACH FRONT ARE AWARE...OF THE WORK THEY ARE DOING, AND ESPECIALLY WHEN THEY HAVE VERY CLEAR OBJECTIVES ABOUT THEIR TASKS AND THEIR MISSION."

Just as Samora seemed to combine many aspects of a revolutionary leader, so he views revolution as a combination of many aspects of struggle. He sees the different tasks of revolutionary struggle as organically related to each other, and all are equally important. He explained how the different tasks combine to build a revolution: some people engage directly in the armed struggle against the invaders while others engage in production. Those who destroy the enemy enable the producers to produce food for the people. The producers also "perform a very important task, so that those who are engaged in the direct struggle will not suffer hunger." Other people transport materials for war, for education, and for health, while others care for invalids and orphans. Students engage in the long term and difficult struggle against ignorance.

"WHEN IN MOZAMBIQUE IMPERIALISM LOSES ONE ARM, AND THEN IN ANGOLA IT LOSES ONE LEG, AND IN ANOTHER PLACE IT LOSES AN EAR, IN THAT WAY IT IS DESTROYED."

Samora sees the Mozambican war itself as a part of a larger revolution -- the struggle for the "liberation of the peoples of

the world." He expressed his solidarity with Americans fighting against the oppression of Vietnamese as well as Mozambican people. He sees as essential the work of CFM, raising the consciousness of the American people about the Mozambican struggle and about the American institutions which oppose it, and providing direct support to FRELIMO; we also discussed specific ways in which we can help. As fighters in the same struggle on different fronts, our meeting with Samora was characterized by a feeling of comradeship and unity.

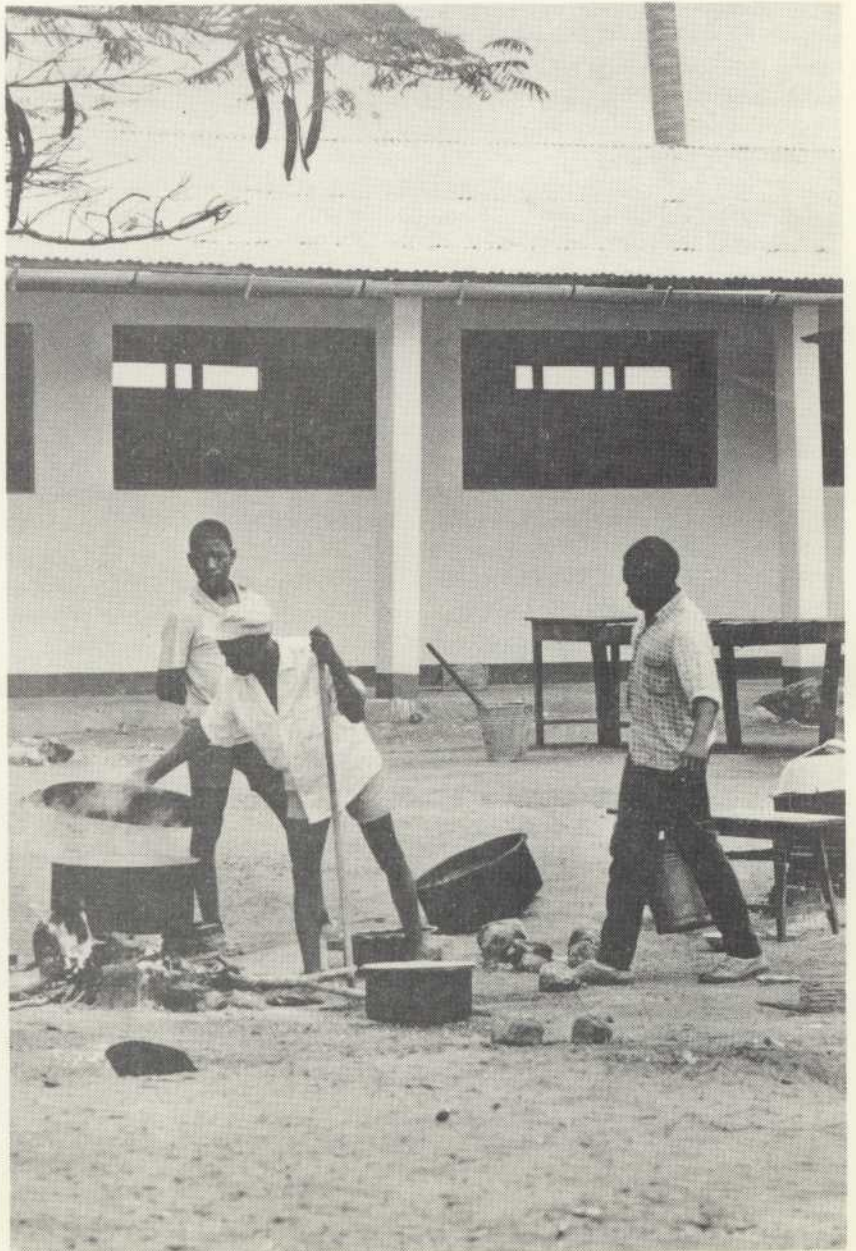
"YOU HAVE SUCCEEDED IN ESTABLISHING A COMBAT BASE IN THE UNITED STATES. SO YOU ARE OUR FIGHTERS."

"IN CAPITALISM THE MORE EDUCATION ONE GETS, THE MORE ISOLATED FROM THE PEOPLE HE IS BECAUSE HE IGNORES HIS ORIGINS. IN REVOLUTION THE MORE EDUCATION ONE HAS THE MORE HE MUST BE AWARE OF THE INTERESTS OF THE PEOPLE, AND MUST BE EVEN MORE LINKED TO HIS ORIGINS...YOU ALL COME FROM THE PEOPLE, EVEN IF ONE OF YOU HAPPENS TO BE A PROFESSOR IN A UNIVERSITY YOU MUST NOT FORGET YOUR ORIGINS. THIS IS HOW WE EDUCATE, WE TEACH OUR STUDENTS TO SERVE THE PEOPLE."

Our visit to the FRELIMO Secondary School and Teacher Training Course at Bagamoyo showed us firsthand how FRELIMO's ideology is put into practice in its institutions. As we ate lunch (rice and beans) together, the headmaster, Comrade Mario Sevei, who was a fighter inside Mozambique until he came to Bagamoyo, explained how the program of the school is dictated by the needs of the struggle and of the Mozambican people. Students understand, he explained, that they are not privileged, but are engaged in the work of revolution. Students learn carpentry, agriculture, health education, and political education - all relevant to the work they will do in Mozambique - in addition to their academic subjects. They spend two to three months a year inside Mozambique educating the people about health, helping in cooperative production, transporting educational materials to one of the primary schools FRELIMO has established, or working wherever else they might be needed. Since the need for educated people is so great in Mozambique, courses are short and accelerated; students spend 46 hours a week in the classroom. Just as revolutionary tasks are shared by all the people inside Mozambique, so do the students at Bagamoyo share the work of the school, growing food, doing the cooking, making their uniforms, and helping to build new classrooms. Teachers are writing textbooks as part of their work, making educational content relevant to Mozambican life.

As we walked about the school grounds, we were struck by the spirit and discipline of the students and teachers. Everybody seemed to be involved in purposeful work. Not a single student looked up from his lessons when we entered a classroom. Whether singing FRELIMO songs, studying Portuguese, or cooking the evening meal, they all seemed like revolutionary soldiers.

FRELIMO leaders are conscious in all their actions of their responsibility to the people. Samora reminded us that we also have this responsibility: As we said good-bye we handed him the CFM check for \$1000. He thanked us and offered us a receipt. Thinking that we were being polite we declined, saying that a receipt was not necessary. But Samora pointed out that it was not our money, it was the money of the American people. It was our responsibility, he said, to bring the people a receipt to show them that FRELIMO had received their money. We accepted the receipt and left feeling that we had learned a great deal.



NEWS FLASH * * * NEWS FLASH * * * NEWS FLASH * * * NEWS FLASH

MILITANTS CAPTURE CABORA BASSA EQUIPMENT (From Standard of Tanzania, July 16, 1971)

The intensification of military operations by the Mozambique Liberation Front in the Cabora Bassa zone in Tete Province has caused major losses on the Portuguese side including the capture of "very important material" for the Cabora Bassa Dam. A FRELIMO communique added that the operations had led to the destruction of three vehicles and one ship, the death of a number of Portuguese soldiers and the capture of a Portuguese civilian. It was stated that on April 9th, an enemy convoy was ambushed on the road between Tete and Cabora Bassa. One lorry was blown up, and a car was intercepted and all the material in it including high precision instruments and eight big files with documents for the construction of the dam were captured. On May 2nd another convoy was ambushed on the road between Tete and Cabora Bassa. The vehicles of this convoy belonged to a company which supplies fuel to the Chitima air base for the defense of the dam. Four men captured from this convoy were taken to a FRELIMO base where they stayed for three weeks, during which period they were told the nature and objectives of their struggle, and several aspects of FRELIMO policy.

VILLAGERS MASSACRED IN PORTUGUESE REPRISALS (From Standard of Tanzania, August 12, 1971)

In savage reprisals for the deaths of three Rhodesian soldiers in Mozambique, the Portuguese have massacred dozens of unarmed villagers in Tete Province, near the point where the soldiers were killed. The indiscriminate killings began south of the Zambezi River in May but the first reports are arriving in Dar Es Salaam only now. The area's communications difficulties have been worsened by the recent Portuguese announcement that they will kill any Mozambican crossing the river in either direction. The Rhodesians were killed at Mukumbura on April 27th when they crossed the border to help a garrison under siege by the soldiers of the Mozambique Liberation Front.

82 PORTUGUESE SOLDIERS KILLED (From Standard of Tanzania, Sept. 3, 1971)

Freedom fighters of the Mozambique Liberation Front killed 82 Portuguese soldiers and destroyed 15 vehicles and one tractor in Tete Province from May to July. A war communique issued by FRELIMO in Dar Es Salaam said these successes were gained in 25 engagements. The communique said that two posts, five camps, and a "protected village" were attacked during operations from May 24 to July 21.

AMERICAN PRAISE FOR CABORA BASSA (Diario de Noticias, (Port.) Sept. 1, 1971)

The technical advisor of the American Vice-President Agnew, Kent Bruce Krane, declared during a visit to Mozambique: "I have great admiration for the Cabora Bassa Dam. The dam will be of great use to many people and I hope the dam will be finished within the time planned."