

## The Tactic of Division

Amilcar Cabral

*Excerpt from a message in September 1970, on the occasion of the 14th Anniversary of the founding of the PAIGC.*

*Translated from French.*

Lately the Portuguese colonialist criminals have resorted to another tactic in order to attempt to end our struggle: divide our people and get Africans to fight Africans. This is an old and widely-used tactic, both by colonialists and in colonial imperialist wars, but we must denounce it and combat it vigorously, so that this new and criminal initiative taken by the enemy shall suffer a great defeat. The colonialists have now invented what they call the 'ethnic congresses' in our country. Their aim is to coopt some of our brothers with high positions and honours, and even more to destroy the awareness and the national unity which both our party and the struggle have already achieved. By holding these so-called congresses and promising each ethnic group its own leader, the colonialists hope to revive the tribal tendencies which we have already extinguished, and to sabotage from the beginning the possibilities of a harmonious national existence for our people in the independence which — they know it well enough — we will certainly conquer. By pretending to want to create a political authority for those populations in the form of chiefs that they can still control, they really wish to prepare the field for new conflicts among the ethnic groups, so that the Balantes may not be able to relate to the Mandjaques nor the Fulas with the Pepels, in order that confusion be established among us, thus rendering impossible the life of the African nation which we are building. The colonialists, with all their congresses, their activities bring obvious harm to our people. But they will not succeed, because our party exists, because our people is increasingly more aware of its rights and duties as an African people, because no manoeuvre will be able to block the victorious march of our armed struggle for liberation. And those who, either by ambition or opportunism, allow themselves to be deceived by the lies of congresses will waste their time and will be marked as deliberate traitors to the interests of our people and of those of Africa.

Always seeking to divide our people, the Portuguese colonialist criminals have been developing a great campaign against the Cape Verdians on their radio, especially in the vernacular languages of Guinea. In this campaign, as well as in a certain number of letters sent to leaders of our party, with promises of honours and riches, they claim that they will expel all Cape Verdians who serve colonialism in Guinea, and that they will offer the positions which the

latter now occupy to what they name 'the real children of Guinea'. The colonialists know that the political, moral and fighting unity of our people in Guinea and the Cape Verde Islands is the main strength of our party and of our struggle. They also wish to destroy it, by attempting to create hate where it has never existed, to diffuse lies, to stir up lust and to awaken a sense of ambition and opportunism among those who, even if they are not participating in our struggle, are nevertheless nationalists who wish the independence of our country. But even there they have completely failed. Firstly, since the real nationalists from Guinea are neither racist nor opportunist, and they know who are their leaders and which is the value of a unity of the people of Guinea and the Cape Verde Islands. Secondly, because the colonialists are lying when they say that they are going to expel the Cape Verdians. They will not be able to do so, because they need the Cape Verdians and the Guineans who are in their service. And the colonialists are well aware of the service which they would render our Party if they really did expel the Cape Verdians from Guinea. But they have already rendered us this service, because they have clearly shown to all the children of Cape Verde who serve the colonialists in Guinea that we are right: the colonialists use them while at the same time having no consideration whatsoever for them. They must thus, together with the best children of our country — of Guinea and Cape Verde — become aware of their situation and support our Party and our struggle, with a view to the total liberation of our African nation. The colonialists have already failed, since their propaganda has not until now found an echo other than from those individuals who are socially declassé, drunkards, robbers, even criminals, integrated in a so-called 'Committee for a Better Guinea'. But these traitors, who have not the least respect for our people, are aware of one thing: they must enjoy the privileges of colonialism while it lasts, because it will be the real children of Guinea and Cape Verde, who are militants and fighters from our party, who will condemn them and punish them for being in the service of the enemy of both our country and of Africa.