

MEMORANDUM

SUBMITTED BY THE MOZAMBIQUE

REVOLUTIONARY COMMITTEE

(COREMO)

to the: SUMMIT CONFERENCE OF HEADS OF AFRICAN STATES

held at: KINSHASA (CONGO)

on the: 11th SEPTEMBER 1967.

COREMO

P.O. BOX 1493

LUSAKA-ZAMBIA.

COMITE REVOLUCIONARIO DE MOCAMBIQUE
(C O R E M O)

Your Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,

In this difficult and crucial moment of the history of our Continent, our Party the Mozambique Revolutionary Committee (COREMO) on behalf of the entire African population of Mozambique in general, and on behalf of its gallant and valiant freedom-fighters who, in this moment particularly, are engaged in a bitter and fierce struggle against the savage forces of the Portuguese colonial Government, has the honour to salute Your Excellencies and distinguished guests and delegates present at this August Annual Summit-Conference of Heads of States, sponsored by the Government of the Democratic Republic of Congo (Kinshasa). A special debt of gratitude is owed to His Excellency President Joseph Mobutu, for having offered Kinshasa as venue for the Conference, despite of the tension and unrest prevailing in one of the Republic's Province -- Bukavu-- brought about by Tshombe's mercenaries whose aim is to bring back the White Killers' and exploiters' rule. Moise Tshombe, as we all know, by his very actions has become ENEMY No. 1 of the African peoples. Our Party, as a progressive movement fighting for independence, hailed with satisfaction the news of the arrest of the criminal and killer, Moise Tshombe, and we humbly pay our tribute to the Government of Algeria for its successful capture of the murderer already sentenced to death not only by president Mobutu's Government, but by all Africans and freedom loving people of the World.

The promptness with which Heads of States, freedom Movements, and individuals responded to the invitation to attend this Summit Conference, in spite of the dark clouds that hang over the horizon of the whole of our Continent, has been encouraging and a sure indication of the total mobilization of the African people and its determination to carry on the decisive struggle, against the combined forces of oppression and exploitation. Confronted as we are by seemingly unyielding systems of colonialism and neo-colonialism, it would be a gross mistake if we had failed to cope with these dangerous and tragic events assailing and threatening our integrity and existence in this our mother Continent.

OUR STRUGGLE FOR FREEDOM

The Portuguese colonialists are determined to hold and turn back the wheel of history by their continuous refusal to recognise our birth-right in our own country. Suppression and moral degradation indiscriminately carried out by the Portuguese fascists against our people is well known by anyone here. Why is it so? It is because Portugal has for ages dreamed of a new Brazil in Africa where she unsuccessfully failed to establish her bogus policy of Portuguese Provincialism. But this won't happen in Africa, for our determination to fight will never allow them to reach their target, even if the struggle goes on for centuries.

Excellencies, our struggle has been a protracted one, involving from the beginning all Mozambican tribes, wherever the Portuguese tried to impose their criminal rule. Right from the first hour of their arrival in 1498, the Portuguese met with hostility from the indigenous people. Everyone who had the opportunity to read Portuguese history is bound to admit the real situation which met their navigators. Had they not been welcomed and sheltered by a certain Indian trader of the name of Mussa Bika, who had credentials from the king of the Empire, Mwana Mutapa, their presence in our country may not have been possible. The Portuguese were conducted to the island as traders by Mussa Bikka. Introduced to the king by their friend Mussa, the Portuguese got permission to establish their slave commerce.

Seven years later, that is, 1505, the Portuguese intruders started to build a fortress on the island without the king's consent. This was no longer a commerce of goods, but of guns and bullets. The bellicose and belligerent attitude of the Portuguese colonialists did not end here, they extended their so-called commerce right up to the king's court, where they sold their ammunition -- this marked, of course, the beginning of a War of Agression which lasted one hundred years. The cunningly planned aggression resulted in a protracted war for the Portuguese imperialists used the old imperialist policy of "divide and rule".

This war was carried out by both traders and Catholic missionaries then spread over the empire. There is no doubt that the Portuguese applied with success, the policy of division among the king and chiefs and between soldiers and the people.

PORTUGUESE FASCISM

The imperialist policy of "divide and rule" was inherited by the fascist distator, Dr. Antonio Oliveira Salazar.

Dr. Salazar, great admirer of Hitler, and Mussolini, introduced in Portugal dictatorship and fascism. Architect of the machinery responsible for most of the subsequent atrocities inflicted against the Portuguese people, Salazar has been responsible for the blood shed both by the Portuguese people and African people.

Dr. Salazar, incurable lunatic, is author of the notorious Portuguese Gestapo - PIDE - a gang of murderers and criminals, a high espionage and intelligence network. Modeled after the Gestapo of Hitler Nazism, it is a growing force of thousands and thousands of secret agents, graded according to the credibility of the information supplied and the permanence of their employment.

The PIDE gang is ^{an} elite corps formed from every group and social layer and comprises: a) secret agents; b) ordinary agents; c) informers; d) casual employees and e) doubtful informants. By this successive hierarchy of thieves and murderers it is very easy to understand the dirty role played by them against the population under their control.

In Mozambique, they have ^{their} core right in the capital of the colony - Lourenco Marques. They do not know each other. It is nothing unusual for members of PIDE to arrest one another. The secret agents are the highest ranking officers of PIDE and consist of recruited intellectuals who after being classified as very good informers are sent to Lisbon in order to undertake intelligence training courses for two years. These criminal intellectuals appeared in Mozambique immediately after the independence of the Congo (Kinshasa).

Subsequently, in 1962, a gang of Angolan and Mozambique PIDE trainees: were sent from Lisbon respectively to Congo (Kinshasa), considered the bulwark of Angolan nationalist and to Tanzania where the Mozambican Movement had then their Headquarters.

Arriving in Dar es Salaam, they were disguised as freedom-fighters who had suffered persecution from the Portuguese Gestapo.

The then party leaders offered them scholarships in order to complete their studies, but they declined. Soon many of them became leaders of the revolutionary movement with the change of the then leaders who were considered incompetent.

It is everybody's knowledge how the PIDE fulfill its duty. Inter alia we cite the following: they accept and pay for any information about people's private lives; about their desires and their weaknesses, their domestic troubles, their income and expenditure. In other words, anything that can be used for blackmail

is under-consideration and welcomed. The PIDE'S henchmen are well trained to a point to pry out secrets and do not hesitate to use money where it is necessary to destroy or to corrupt their opponents.

In Mozambique, the Salazarist "Government", in order to enlist the Africans in the PIDE, resorted successfully to economic sanctions, that is, to mass unemployment. To those who were already employed restrictions were imposed on them in their working places. By so doing, a great number of Africans, affraid to lose their jobs, surrendered one by one their resistance of non-cooperation with the Portuguese Gestapo. Some are paying for their nationalism in the dark dungeons of the PIDE. Others succeeded in reaching our Offices where they now make planes to go back home.

It is well known that every employee must report to PIDE'S Headquarters of what he heard about Portuguese rule - since all are considered Portuguese citizens. Any conversation which touch politics must be immediately reported otherwise you find yourself in difficulties. As a result, an atmosphere of suspicion is rife and the order of the day.

A WORD ON UNITY

Excellencies, a struggle that is fought by a disunited people is a struggle which is bound to be riddled with difficulties. It is important that there must be unity. But unity must have a basis - a principled basis. This has all along been COREMO'S viewpoint and it is therefore that we wish to say something about our attempts of UNITY with the Mozambican Movements.

We/therefore, strongly feel that we are justified in reverting to the April 1965 meeting for UNITY. It would be good to recall that the meeting was sponsored, initiated and convened by the Government of Zambia, whose Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. S. Kapwepwe took an active part therein. The Government of Zambia, using its good offices, attempted to find a solution to the political impasse which our struggle has reached, but unfortunately, it is sad to recall that this unselfish attempt to bring about unity of the Mozambican movements, was from the beginning undermined and deliberately sabotaged by certain opportunists and by the high-handed attitude of some spineless leaders who, to say the least, never took the matter seriously.

We are, therefore, obliged to refer to the leaders of the so-called Mozambique Liberation Front or FRELIMO. These leaders, Dr. Mondlane and his components, moved, we think, by a spirit of their own

their own intellectualism, refused to cooperate and join hands together with other Mozambican Movements and they left the historic meeting without any comments or suggestions. On whom does the blame now hang? Is it correct that a struggle of seven and half million people be undermined by one Party?

Consequently when the Frelimo leaders abandoned the meeting the other remaining leaders agreed to join hands forming what we called COREMO or Mozambique Revolutionary Committee and few months afterwards the struggle of the people started in spite of the lack of material and money.

In January this year, the Coordinating Committee of Eleven of this Organisation for African Unity, held its meeting here in Kinshasa where hot debates on the progress of the struggle of Southern Africa took place. We were there and we took part in it. We were allowed to get into the conference where we were able to present our case as determined freedom-fighters. Our petition dealt with our recognition by the Liberation Coordinating Committee of Eleven. After the meeting, if we are not mistaken, we heard something tantamount to partial recognition of COREMO. In another words, it was decided that our movement should receive some kind of material support to enable us to carry ^{on the} armed struggle. This, of course, pleased us for such aid was important for a struggle. But it was a great surprise when we received an official letter from the Executive Secretary of the Coordinating Committee, Mr. George Magombe, inviting us to disband our movement in order to join FRELIMO as individuals. We rightly rejected this call. We are recognised popular people's movement. We are prepared to form a UNITED FRONT any time with FRELIMO or any other progressive movement in our country. But, why call on us to disband?? Why not call on FRELIMO to disband? We are sure that they will laugh at such suggestion. We have stated categorically that we are prepared for a UNITED FRONT any time. But the onus does not lie on our shoulders. It is on the other movements. Speak to them we say.

COREMO is in the bush in Mozambique fighting the Portuguese soldiers. With the help of material^s captured from the enemy, our guerrillas have scored victory after victory.

Everyone should know that the leaders who formed COREMO had reached the conclusion that the time for individual preferences was over, petty ambitions and narrow interests of the individual giving place to national ambitions of the Mozambican people.

Excellencies, the Mozambique Revolutionary Committee invites your attention to one very important point, as far ^{as} we are concerned, because as a revolutionary movement we usually do not have a chance of visiting independent African countries putting our case as we are more busy at home. Not only this but because we are sure that you will not be pleased to see us in your capitals from now and then as you are already aware of just cause and we also sure that you would like us to spend much of ^{our} time, if not all our time, in Mozambique than in the independent countries of Africa. Realising this point, our organisation has always kept three quarters of its leaders inside the country so that they can participate in the armed revolutionary struggle together with its fighters and men. But without disregarding the mobilisation of the international opinion in order to isolate Portugal, we have sent or instructed our Foreign Missions to propagate intensively about our case in all International forums. Likewise, we have appealed in many places before the Co-ordination Committee of the OAU with a view of soliciting for funds and at the same time to explain in detail about our activities inside Mozambique.

In our country the Portuguese imperialists who are being assisted by their allies of the West have set to work a diabolical propaganda machinery which uses vicious language to discourage the people from taking an active part in the armed revolutionary struggle. These fascists are vehemently attacking the activities of our gallant and valiant fighters and slandering our just cause. By this action they are not only doing harm to our struggle, but to the entire struggle of all the oppressed people of Africa. And what makes it worse is the formation of the unholy alliance formed by Salazar/Vorster/Smith. And we hope our African brothers will seriously consider the recent development in Rhodesia not only from a Rhodesian point of view but you will also make a serious study on Mozambique as to the regard of the recent developments in Rhodesia.

It is from this point and many others, that our movement urgently appeals for recognition and assistance so that the struggle in Southern Africa can be coordinated.

Excellencies, having made our stand clear on the point of how determined, we are and having assured you of our courage to carry through to the end this protracted struggle of ours, and after expressing our view^s on the question of unity between us and FRELIMO, we now appeal for:

- a) Formal and unconditional recognition of the Mozambique Revolutionary Committee (COREMO) by all organs of the OAU;
- b) Material support and all other types of assistance that will enable us to accelerate the armed struggle;

c) Transit facilities for our militants;

d) Finally, we would like to appeal for your urgent consideration of our request, and besides these we would also like to mention that it is our opinion that as our guerrilla war develops, the Coordinating Committee should send observers to our country to the areas operated by COREMO, so that the OAU at its next Conference can have first hand information of the activities of our Organisation by its own eye witnesses. We are prepared to have two members from any organ of the OAU to visit our front.

Your Excellencies, on behalf of the Mozambique Revolutionary Committee (COREMO) and the entire people of Mozambique, I have the hope that the OAU and its organ the Liberation Committee as a whole, will take our appeal into full and urgent consideration for the sake of liberation of Mozambique and the rest of Africa.

Yours in the service of Africa,

