

FRELIMO SPEAKS OF:

The Conscience of the Mozambique Revolution

In the May issue of its Newsletter "Revolution" FRELIMO lets the participants in the armed struggle in Mozambique speak for themselves in language that is reminiscent of that of the dedicated fighters of Vietnam:

"Miss JOANINA MGAWA (a FRELIMO soldier stationed at the Central Military base of Cabo Delgado.) :

The Portuguese came one day to my village. There were PIDES and soldiers. They killed my sister, who was pregnant, opened her womb and took the child out. They killed one man, opened his stomach and put the foetus in it. And they started laughing madly. They killed many people in the village. They arrested others, including my father and my brother, 23 years old. They took them to the post, and we never saw them again. After that they burned the village. I escaped, with a brother five years old, because I could hide in the bush. Then I joined the armed forces of FRELIMO. I want to take up arms against our enemies. I have already participated in two ambushes against them."

"KAPINGO NAMUMBI (Chairman of the local FRELIMO branch of Diancar):

Our life is the war. If we sleep 2 or 3 days without hearing of the war it seems that we have no life. Food, clothes, etc., do not matter to us. It is the knowledge that in such a place the Portuguese were ambushed

and defeated that gives us life. We know how to distinguish the whizzing of the weapons of the enemy. When there is a fight we are able to tell: 'Now that was our fighters who fired. Now it was the enemy who fired.' When our weapons sing, our hearts become filled with joy, because that means that the enemy is feeling our force, our children are teaching them that our country wants to be free and will be free."

"NIKUTUME MWANGANE (Vice-Chairman of Nangande Branch):

We shall never retreat. Those who were afraid or were tired of the war have already crossed the border and deserted the struggle. We shall stay here and we shall fight until our country is free."

In an editorial article FRELIMO comments:

"It is beautiful to see an ideal cherished intensively for a long time, take shape and be converted into reality. Especially when that ideal means freedom, peace, progress - in short, happiness - for a whole people. Moreover, when the realisation of that ideal is not accidental, does not come haphazardly but is the fruit of a common work, of the conscious efforts of thousands and thousands of men, women and children, who accept suffering sacrifices, animated by a firm will to see that dream, that they have dreamed for a long time, become concrete. It is beautiful to see the liberation of our country, Mozambique, take shape."

Then the article goes on to speak of life in those areas that have been liberated by FRELIMO from the Portuguese fascists:

"Life in the liberated areas is a simple life, marked and inspired by the Revolution. The morning starts at about 5 a.m. The people go out for their work - to the shambas, to carry water, to pound maize, to peel off the cassava, to build storehouses, to cut wood, to chop timber to build houses, etc. The guerrillas and the militias go to patrol work. The children go to school."

The article then goes to speak of the motive force behind all those activities, which is the spirit of the Revolution.

"The conscience of the Revolution is present in all the work, and manifests itself in the force put into all activities by the people. There is an immense number of cultivated fields in the liberated areas. In some areas, as in NAMACHUDE (Cabo Delgado) and NGAZELO (Naiassa) about 80% of the land is cultivated. In some other areas production is less, due mainly to the lack of rains and to the monkeys, which devastate the fields, as for example in CUERO. But the people work with intensity, with perseverance. We know we are producing for ourselves, and not for the Portuguese colonialist "boss". And this gives us a new spirit."

The editorial then proceeds to discuss education:

"In the field of education - there are in Cabo Delgado Province more than 6,000 students in the FRELIMO schools. There are only primary schools as yet, many of them in the open air. There is lack of teachers - in many zones, for example in NAMAKABA-CHINDE, there is only one teacher for more than 120 students. Material for teaching is almost non-existent: the students have to write on a blackboard with dry cassava as chalk. Instead of paper or slates they use a piece of wood, which they later scrape with a knife to erase what they wrote. Many of the students have to walk several miles to the nearest school. On the way they often have to hide themselves from aircraft. However, the number of students increases, in spite of all difficulties, and the progress they make is considerable."

Such is the determination of the FRELIMO freedom fighters: such are the achievements already registered by the Mozambiquean people-in-

arms; such is the splendid example that our fighting brothers have set us. How close we would be to freedom and independence if this revolutionary spirit were to spread throughout Southern Africa! If many Mozambiques should flourish throughout Southern Africa!

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