

# Highlights of the Congress



From the 20th to the 25th of July, 1968, the Second Congress of FRELIMO was held in Mozambique, in a liberated area of Niassa Province. There were approximately 170 delegates and observers. The delegates came from all parts of Mozambique — from Lourenco Marques to Cabo Delgado; they represented all strata of the Mozambican people — workers, peasants, intellectuals and traditional chiefs. Among the observers were two representatives of the Afro-Asian Solidarity Organisation, one representative of the People's Movement for the liberation of Angola, one representative of the ANC of South Africa and one representative of ZAPU. Present at the Congress was a well-known British writer and journalist, Mr. Basil Davidson.



Mr. FRELIMO'S Uria Simango speaking to the representatives of the Cabo Delgado province (in the liberated areas)

The importance of this Congress rests on the fact that it is the 1st Congress held in liberated Mozambique, and the 1st Congress truly representative of the Mozambican people. In fact, the participants at the 1st Congress of FRELIMO, which was held in Dar Es Salaam in September 1962, were mostly Mo-



**Groups of FRELIMO freedom fighters during guerilla warfare course**

zambican emigrants who lived outside Mozambique for several years. Now, nearly all the delegates came directly from their

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regions in Mozambique, and all of them are actively engaged in the Revolution.

The Congress was held in an atmosphere of wide cordiality, frankness and democracy, with high revolutionary spirit. The delegates presented the problems of their regions — problems concerning the political organisation, the armed struggle, and national reconstruction. These problems were thoroughly discussed; on the basis of these discussions, directives for their solution were drawn up.

Among the most important decisions of the Congress are those which have changed some structures of our organisation. Thus, the Congress continues to be the supreme organ of FRELIMO; but it is now widely representative, comprising delegates of all the Provinces of Mozambique and representatives of the mass organisations — workers, youth, women and students — plus representatives of the political and military structures. The Central Committee has now a different nature. It previously was composed of the secretaries of the Departments and their assistants and its functions were at the same time legislative, executive and judi-

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cial. Now the CC is composed of members elected by the Provinces, of representatives of mass organisations, of the Provincial secretaries and of members elected by the Congress: the CC was thus widened from 20 to about 40 members; and its function has become strictly legislative.

The executive function belongs to a new organ — the Executive Committee — comprising the President and the Vice-President of FRELIMO, and the Secretaries of the Departments.

A Political and Military Committee was created, formed of the President, the Vice-President, the Secretaries of the Defense Department, the Department of Internal Organisation, the Political Department, the Security Department and the Provincial Secretaries. This Committee will study and solve the urgent political and military problems, between the ordinary meetings of the CC.

The President and the Vice-President of FRELIMO are elected by the Congress upon proposal by the Central Committee.

At the Provincial level there is a Provincial Council and a Provincial Committee.

The Congress took important

decisions. It reaffirmed that, in the present circumstances the armed struggle is still the only way to liberate Mozambique and that considering the conditions in which it is fought, this struggle will be necessarily protracted. The Congress decided to intensify the mobilisation and the politisation of the masses; to recruit elements of other provinces not yet affected by the armed struggle; to increase the number of militias; to amplify the women's detachment, and to apply the policy of clemency to captured enemy soldiers.

Concerning the administration of the liberated zones, it was decided to consolidate the establishment of the political and administrative power in those regions; to increase production; to re-populate the liberated areas by persuading the people who sought refuge in the exterior to return to their lands; to uplift the cultural level of the Mozambicans by creating more schools and training more teachers; to better the services of social assistance; to improve medical assistance.

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Regarding external policy, the Congress condemned the American imperialist aggression



against Vietnam, and reaffirmed the total solidarity and support of FRELIMO to the FLN of South Vietnam and to the Government of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam; condemned the imperialist alliance of NATO; condemned the imperialist policy of Israel against the Arab people; hailed the revolutionary struggles of the peoples of Angola, Guinea and Cape Verde, Sao Tome and Principe and reaffirmed the unitary nature of the struggle of all peoples under Portuguese colonialism. The Congress hailed and expressed its support to the revolutionary struggle of the peoples of South Africa, Zimbabwe, and South West Africa, led by the ANC, ZAPU and SWAPO. It hailed the struggle of the Afro-Americans in the United States, against racial discrimination and economic exploitation. It hailed the struggle of the Portuguese people against Salazar's fascism. The Congress declared its solidarity with the peoples and governments of the

socialist countries, and entrusted the Central Committee to intensify the relations between FRELIMO and the socialist countries.

At the end of the Congress elections took place. Members of the Central Committee were elected. Comrades EDUARDO MONDLANE and URIA SIMANGO were re-elected for the post, respectively, of President and Vice-President of FRELIMO.

The Congress sent a message to His Excellency Julius K. Nyerere, President of the United Republic of Tanzania, thanking him, his government and the people of Tanzania for the support they have always given to the struggle of the Mozambican people.

This Congress reinforced the unity of the Mozambican people. It proved that all Mozambicans are united in the same will to be free, and to work together to regain their freedom. This Second Congress was a decisive step towards our final victory.