

PRESIDENT SAMORA MACHEL'S SPEECH ABOUT THE EVENTS IN LOURENÇO MARQUES (8/09/74)

Mozambican Women, Mozambican Men; officers, sargents and soldiers of the Portuguese Army:

Yesterday, 7 September, some moments after the solemn signing of the Peace agreement between Mozambique and Portugal, a small handful of reactionary Whites, working for the international imperialism, occupied the Rádio Clube de Moçambique building, in Lourenço Marques. This band of gangsters, composed by war criminals, agents of PIDE-DGS and well-known representatives of the exploiting forces, desperately tries to oppose itself to the will of Peace of the Mozambican and the Portuguese Peoples.

The objective of these elements without nationality or ideal is to prevent the independence of Mozambique, therefore searching the provocation of a climate of racial conflict, chaos and anarchy, which serves as a pretext for the internationalization of the aggression against our People. In so doing, they recruited mercenaries and appealed for the support of racist and reactionary forces.

Mozambican Women, Mozambican Men; officers, sargents and soldiers of the Portuguese Army:

Today, at zero hours, the cease-fire should have started all over Mozambique. Today, at zero hours, together with the desire of construction.

This is the will of all the Mozambican People, from the Rovuma down to the Maputo. This is the truth of the entire People of Portugal, the Portuguese democratic forces and the Armed Forces Movement. This is the very will of the Portuguese Government, expressed through the signing of three of its ministers and five officers of the above cited Movement, in the Agreements of Lusaka.

This is the truth directly expressed to us today at dawn, by the Portuguese Head of State, General Spínola, the Prime-Minister Colonel Vasco Gonçalves, and the chief of the Armed Forces General Staff, General Costa Gomes.

Against this will there stands a handful of miserable ambitious people, disposed to feed themselves with the blood of two Peoples. Our duty is to neutralize immediately the colonial fascist rebellion. Within the spirit and contents of the Lusaka Agreements, the People's liberation forces of Mozambique and the Portuguese Armed Forces, that honour their word, will collaborate closely to safeguard the public order, defend Mozambique's territorial integrity and assure the process of independence in Mozambique.

Mozambican Women, Mozambican Men; officers, sargents and soldiers of the Portuguese Army:

The present reactionary aggression mustn't surprise. Those who have always lived with crime and exploitation can't peacefully resign to lose their terrorist kingdom. But it is important for us now to understand clearly the intentions of the common enemy, in order to define our correct strategy.

This small gang wants to create a situation that lead to the explosion of the ~~the~~ people's anger, an atmosphere that bring about racial conflict. Once this objective of originating a war among races were reached, there would be created the pretext for internationalizing the war and, above all, compromising the common effort of national reconstruction.

FRELIMO declares once more firmly and clearly that she does not tolerate any racial conflict. The popular masses, in this critical moment, must more than ever distinguish this handful of criminals from the White population, that, in its majority, wants to share the tasks of constructing an independent Mozambique, identifying itself with the true aspirations of the Nation. The criminals intend to attract to their mad and already condemned to

failure adventure the illest-informed sector of the White population.

To the White population, essentially constituted by honest workers, we repeat what we always said: our struggle and yours is the struggle against exploitation, the struggle for building-up a new motherland - the People's democratic Power!

We say unequivocally that the criminal forces of the colonial fascist reaction want to use you as a safeguard for the privileges of a tiny minority that exploits yourselves as well, thus gravely compromising the immense possibilities we have to edify altogether an authentic racial harmony in our Country.

The criminals want to involve the neighbouring countries in their desperate action. We shall advertise: neither FRELIMO nor the African and non-African allies nor the Mozambican People nor the international community would tolerate what would have to be considered an imperialistic aggression.

It is not our will to initiate a new war, now that we have just finished a ten-year old one. But we also say: we won't hesitate in doing so to defend the Independence and integrity of Mozambique.

Officers, sargents and soldiers of the Portuguese Army:

Today, 8 September, at zero hours, a new era of relations must arise between FRELIMO and the Portuguese Armed Forces, reconciliated by the spirit of friendship and democracy that has always united our peoples. The present attitude of a small group of bandits is aimed at preventing the materialization of the cease-fire agreement, relighting the fire of war in Mozambique, which is against the desire of our two Peoples.

It is our duty to honour the Lusaka Agreement, to honour the courage and effort of the Armed Forces Movement that on April the 25th restored Portugal's democracy and dignity.

In signing the agreements we loyally shake hands with you. The reactionary want us to restart fighting. We want to say how intensely we'd like to maintain our hands shaken. Now we have a common enemy and together must fight it inexorably.

The enemies of Peace, the enemies of friendship and cooperation between Mozambique and Portugal are composed by the still alive roots of the colonial fascist regime in Mozambique.

Mozambican Women, Mozambican Men:

In the name of the Mozambican People, united from the Rovuma to the Maputo, with no distinction of ethnical groups, races, sexes, social origins or religious creeds, we say:

1- The People must subvert all supplies and communications to the tiny group of fascist fanatical and desperate adventurers.

2- The unaware members of the population who have been manipulated by the colonial fascist gangsters must go immediately back to their homes, refusing to be instruments of the fascists. This is the most adequate way to defend their legitimate interests that FRELIMO compromises herself to protect.

3- FRELIMO appeals for the Portuguese Armed Forces, in the urban zones not yet occupied by the People's Forces of the Mozambique Liberation Front, to neutralize, as soon as possible, the reactionary and subversive agents, so preventing the repetition of incidents like those that have just taken place in Lourenço Marques.

Mozambican Women, Mozambican Men; officers, sargents and soldiers of the Portuguese Army:

FRELIMO solemnly respects her arrangements. With the signing that firmed the Agreements of Lusaka, in the grave moment we are through, we want to tell our People: it is our duty to maintain, at any cost, FRELIMO's political line, that led us during ten years of armed struggle. Our struggle was not, has never been and will never be a struggle against one race or one people. Colonialism has got no race. Capitalism doesn't know a country of its own. Ours is the struggle of the oppressed against the oppressor, of the exploited against the

exploiter. Our struggle is to construct the People's democratic Power in our independent Mozambique.

In this grave moment, it is more than ever important the integral accomplishment of our word of order, that is: absolute Unity from the Rovuma to the Maputo; active vigilance; revolutionary discipline; political awareness and clear definition of the enemy.

We solemnly proclaim, in this historical occasion of our People's, the complete cease-fire all over Mozambique, between the FRELIMO forces and the Portuguese Army.

The People's Liberation Forces of Mozambique can immediately stop all the military operations directed against the Portuguese Army. They must, at the same time, keep as actively vigilant as possible and act against all the activities by the reactionary forces, in collaboration with the Portuguese Armed Forces and within the spirit of the Lusaka Agreements.

Hail the Agreement of Lusaka!

Long live the Mozambican People!

Long live the Friendship and Cooperation between the Mozambican People and the Portuguese People, the People's Liberation Forces of Mozambique and the Portuguese Armed Forces!

Long live Mozambique Independent!

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