

LET US CONSOLIDATE OUR UNITY

From January 26 to February 2, 1979 an Extra-ordinary Meeting of the Co-ordinating Bureau of the Non-Aligned Countries was held in Maputo. The meeting which was attended by Foreign Ministers was attended by 23 countries and 23 observers. Also present were the liberation

movements of Southern Africa and international organisations.

The meeting was addressed by President Samora Moises Machel and his address was unanimously adopted as a document of the meeting. Sechaba reproduces this important document in the hope that our readers

will start pondering about the Conference of the Non-Aligned Countries due to be held in Havana, Cuba, in September 1979.

Mr Chairman,
Distinguished delegates,

We should like, to begin with, to express our warmest greetings to the Co-ordinating Bureau of the Non-Aligned Countries and our heartfelt wishes for the full success of the work of this important gathering.

The holding of the present meeting of the Co-ordinating Bureau in the capital of our People's Republic is a cause for rejoicing and an event of high significance.

The Mozambican people welcomes the delegates in a spirit of enthusiastic friendship and salutes, in their person, the peoples they represent, as comrades manning the same anti-imperialist barricade. We salute, in particular, the Chairman of the Co-ordinating Bureau, Abdul C.S. Hameed, whose clear-sighted leadership has contributed towards the dynamic and efficient operations of this notable organ of our Movement. Through him, we address our greetings and thanks to His Excellency Junius Richard Jayawar Dene, the current Chairman of the Conference of Non-Aligned Countries for the manner in which he has discharged his task.

The year which has just elapsed saw the disappearance from our ranks of President Ali Soilih, that great fighter for the national independence and unity of the Comoros, savagely murdered by mercenaries and puppets.

We also deplore the death of President Jomo Kenyatta, of Kenya, a veteran in the struggle for the independence of Africa.

A short while ago, our Movement lost one of its most notable personalities. The death of President Houari Boumedienne, constitutes an irreparable loss for the Algerian people, for Africa, for oppressed peoples the world over, and for progressive mankind in general. Within the Non-Aligned Movement President Houari Boumedienne engaged in militant action in a tremendous scale during the period in which he served with distinction as President of our Movement.

We propose, in tribute to the memory

of Presidents Ali Soilih, Jomo Kenyatta and Houari Boumedienne, that this Assembly observe one minute of silence.

Our Movement

The Non-Aligned Movement, one of the main forces for peace, is holding the meeting of its Bureau in a war-zone. With this meeting, our Organization, composed of countries deeply committed to the cause of freedom and independence, to the cause of human rights, affirms its presence on the field of battle against colonialism, fascism and racism.

This is the moment when each of us re-lives the memory of the Motherland in chains. Re-lives the times when foreign troops fired on the people in Bombay, when the occupants hanged patriots in Nairobi, when paratroops slaughtered the people of Suez, when mercenaries carried out massacres in Biafra and Katanga, colonialists violated children in Burma and Malaysia, multi-nationals and spy agencies overthrew governments, invaded San Domingo, occupied the Panama Canal, and converted two-thirds of mankind into the vast back yard of the imperialists.

Our presence here, esteemed delegates, testifies to the fact that the marks left by colonialism are still vivid in the minds of our peoples, and revives our deep-seated hatred of oppression, and provides a re-affirmation of our joint resolve to put a final end to the continuous aggression that colonialism and racism represent.

The birth of the Non-Aligned Movement took place during an extremely important stage in the recent history of mankind. It was born as an anti-colonialist and anti-imperialist movement, as a resistance movement against imperialist attempts to regiment our countries into aggressive military pacts, making use of them in their own interests contrary to the right of peoples to independence, progress and peace, contrary to the right of peoples to the free choice of their path of political, economic and social development.

It was born at a time when the anti-colonial struggle was in the full throes of development. It was born at a time when major progressive changes were taking

“Our Movement... affirms its presence on the field of battle against colonialism, fascism and racism.”

place in countries newly liberated from the colonial yoke, It was born at the height of the period of the cold-war organized by imperialism to counter the building of socialism. It was born amidst the ashes of the imperialist defeat in Korea. It was born when imperialism recommenced its aggression against Viet-Nam.

From its very beginning, the Non-Aligned Movement proved to be a decisive force in the anti-imperialist struggle. This was due, in large part, to the outstanding progressive, dynamic and profoundly anti-imperialist personages who presided over its birth and development.

Josip Broz Tito, fighter in the anti-fascist resistance, and fighter for the cause of the freedom and independence of peoples; Gamal Abdel Nasser, fighter for the cause of the dignity of the Arab peoples, the African peoples and the Palestinian people; Kwame N’Krumah, fighter for the cause of the freedom and unity of the African peoples against colonialism and racism, and Jawarharlal Nehru, fighter for freedom and peace against the enlargement of the imperialist blocs.

To remember their names is to remember the successes in the struggle of our peoples; successes which have irreversibly transformed the correlation of forces at the international level in favour of independence, freedom, progress and peace; successes which have forced colonialism to retreat in all continents and bring its final liquidation closer; successes which have compelled imperialism to accept the fact that every people has the right to choose its own destiny, to choose its road of economic and social development.

As the basis of our victories, we note two decisive factors; our unity and the clear-cut definition of the enemy.

We have succeeded in establishing between our countries a correct platform of unity. And our unity is no mere statement of principle or expression of emotion.

Because it is based on the interests of our people — liberation from colonialism; liberation from economic, military, technological, scientific and cultural dependence;

opposition to wars of aggression, resistance to the imperialist attempts to manipulate us — our Movement grew, was able to unite us, was able to transform the small forces of each of us into an immense and invincible force in the struggle against poverty, exploitation and imperialist pillage, in the struggle for the recovery of our own resources, in the struggle against the status of being mere producers of raw materials to which imperialism wishes to reduce us.

Another reason for our growth is that the Non-Aligned Movement was able to find among the other forces for progress and peace companions in struggle on the anti-imperialist barricade.

The destruction of capitalist power and the establishment of socialist regimes in various parts of the world have shattered the hegemony of imperialism.

Today it is already unable to invade, occupy and exploit our countries with the same overwhelming superiority,

The Socialist Countries

The socialist countries were at our side and gave political, diplomatic and military support to the armed struggles for national liberation. Their support was decisive in the armed struggle of the peoples of Angola, Mozambique and Guinea-Bissau. At the crucial moment in the history of Angola, the socialist countries provided the means and support necessary to preserve the territorial integrity of Angola and the conquests of the armed struggle for national liberation, and to defeat the South African invasion. The socialist countries were at our side when Korea was attacked in 1951, when the peoples of Indochina were fighting for their independence, when the French, British and Israeli forces occupied the Suez Canal, when imperialism blockaded Cuba, and when imperialism sought to achieve the balkanization of the Congo and the secession of Biafra.

The disappearance of the system of blocs, which we all desire, and for which the Movement is struggling, will be achieved by our unity, and by the growth of the anti-

imperialist movement.

We were able to encourage the alliance with the democratic forces of the capitalist countries. The growth of those forces has enabled them to develop, within the strongest imperialist bastions, a major effort aimed at neutralizing colonial adventures, unmasking imperialist plots against the peoples, and opposing the speeding up of the arms race. The democratic forces of the capitalist countries are in sympathy with the struggle of the colonial peoples and have given political and material support to the armed struggle for national liberation.

Imperialism — the common enemy

Our unity, and our alliance with the other progressive forces have been achieved so that we were able to define the common enemy facing us — a very real enemy, who makes himself very much felt by his acts of oppression and exploitation.

Who bombarded our cities, from Bizerta to Managua, from Hawaii to Conakry and Beirut? Who plotted to destabilise our countries? Who organized coups d'etat and assassinated presidents such as Ali Soilih? Who attempts to split up countries like the Comoros and Nigeria? Who established military bases and introduced nuclear weapons into the Indian Ocean?

To all these questions there is always the same reply: imperialism.

Imperialism is providing the means to enable Israel and South Africa to become nuclear powers. It supports the rule of the multinationals. It forces down the prices of the raw materials that we produce and continually increases those of industrial products so as to prevent us from becoming economically independent. Imperialism continues to occupy parts of our countries, such as South Korea and Guantanamo in Cuba. It is keeping vile governments in power, and is trying to preserve them by sending warships, troops and agents when the masses rise up against them.

Imperialism is our enemy — our economic, military, political and cultural enemy.

This clear definition of the enemy, together with unity, is the foundation of

our strength and of the progressive growth of our Movement.

Mr. Chairman, this meeting is being held in a country which, for 14 years has been forced to be at war. Our people had to fight a colonial war carried on by the Portuguese colonialists and by imperialism. It now has to face continuous armed attacks by imperialism through the intermediary of the illegal racist regime of Ian Smith, attacks in which our people are massacred and our economic infrastructure is destroyed. The aim of these criminal acts is to destabilize the political, social and economic situation of our country, prevent our development and destroy our popular democratic State. The attacks are aimed at denying our people the inalienable right freely and independently to choose its road to political, economic and social development.

We are the target of imperialist aggression because we support the liberation struggle of the peoples, and consider our own liberty to be inseparable from the liberation of all oppressed peoples.

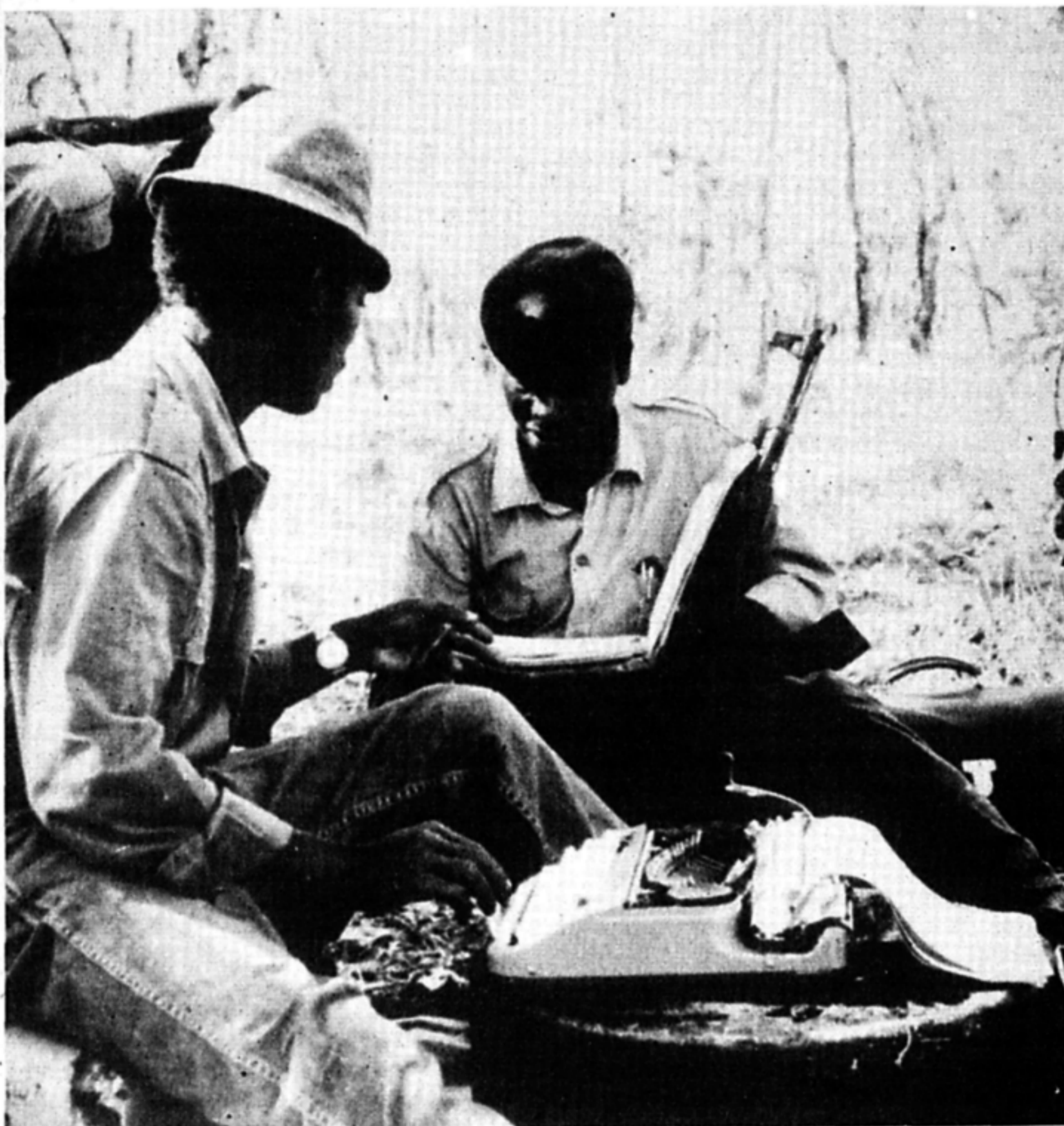
This important meeting is thus being held in a region of direct confrontation with imperialism which, through the intermediary of vile and backward regimes, condemned by the entire international community, obstinately refuses to recognize the right of peoples to independence and liberty.

The imperialist defeat in Asia put an end to the dreams of hegemony and colonization in our brother continent. The South Korean puppets, faced with the growing revolt of the masses, and increasingly discredited internationally, look ahead in panic to the time when they will be abandoned by their masters.

The Taiwan puppets have already been abandoned by their allies. The triumph of the peoples of Indochina shattered the chain of imperialist alliances and will ultimately lead to the extension of our Movement to cover the whole of South-east Asia.

The defeats suffered by imperialism extend the frontiers of peace, progress, liberty and justice.

But imperialism persists where its arms and its dreams of domination have still



Frelimo freedom fighters before the victory of People's Power

not been smashed by the popular struggle.

Southern Africa

Southern Africa is one such region. It is probably the region which will become the pivot and the main site of confrontation, the region in which the fundamental principles of national independence and human equality are still contested. Here,

imperialism refuses to recognise the existence of genuinely sovereign, genuinely non-aligned African States. It violently opposes the establishment of socialism in Mozambique and Angola. It tries to preserve the racist States as an operational terrorist force against free Africa.

It will be defeated. It will suffer the same fate as that of the Portuguese colonialists. Whether the death agony of racism is

to be shortened or prolonged, whether the price to be paid in blood is to be reduced, depends on our joint action in support of the liberation struggle. The conditions are ripe for victory.

The victory of the peoples of Mozambique, Angola, Guinea-Bissau, Cape Verde and St. Tome and Principe over Portuguese colonialism, the victory of the Angolan people over the puppets and the racist and mercenary invaders, the establishment of popular democratic States in our continent were a powerful blow against imperialism, profoundly altered the relationship of forces in Africa, and stimulated and created favourable conditions for the rapid development of the national liberation struggle in southern Africa..

Even to imperialism itself, it has become clear that colonialism in Zimbabwe and Namibia, and apartheid in South Africa, are doomed by history. The imperialist powers are carrying out manoeuvres of all kinds so as to ensure that the fall of these regimes does not mean the final liquidation of their interests, their hegemony, and their power in this region. Their objective is to prevent the genuine and complete liberation of Zimbabwe, Namibia, and South Africa, and to deny them the right to break the chains of imperialist domination.

Faced with the development and intensification of the struggles of the peoples of Southern Africa, which is bringing the minority racist regimes to the brink of collapse, the Western powers, which have always supported those regimes, are now trying to appear as allies of the liberation movement and even as a factor of decisive importance in the emancipation of the peoples. This is part of the new imperialist tactic, aimed at putting imperialism in a better position to carry out its manoeuvres, protect its interests, and destroy the natural alliance between the liberation movement and other world progressive forces.

Imperialist Manoeuvres

In Zimbabwe, imperialism makes use of two operational detachments: on the one hand, Smith and his puppets, and on the other, the colonial power and its associates. The tactic is always to keep the two alternatives

open, one internal and the other international. When one of the approaches develops to such an extent that a solution of the problem, to the detriment of imperialist hegemony, is imminent, imperialism hurries to put forward the other alternative. They follow one another in turn in what seems to be a vicious circle.

The Anglo-American proposal was the first concrete proposal made by the imperialist Powers to solve the problem of Zimbabwe in the face of the advance of the armed struggle for national liberation. Despite its many negative aspects, the Zimbabwe Patriotic Front and the Frontline States considered this proposal as a possible basis for negotiation. Improvements brought to that proposal through intensive negotiations produced a situation which was liable to hasten the downfall of the Salisbury regime.

To preserve the essence of imperialist interests and gain time, Smith switched his line and signed the so-called internal settlement with some puppets in March 1978. Despite their awareness of the sheer non-viability of the settlement, the imperialists did not oppose it. They hoped that through it situations would be created which would become irreversible.

The people's response to the internal settlement farce was to intensify the armed struggle for national liberation. That struggle was extended to the whole territory, even into the settlers towns, attained strategic military and economic objectives and brought the regime face to face with imminent total collapse. The armed struggle made it possible to move beyond the imperialists' attempt to place the illegal regime and the patriots on an equal footing and to consider the puppets and the freedom fighters as having equal standing as negotiators.

In the light of this failure the imperialists again took action to try to salvage the main substance.

They first reverted to international action by proposing a conference of all interested parties. When a precise definition of those 'interested parties' was attempted, the unwisdom of that manoeuvre became obvious. The interested parties, or rather the parties which interested the imperialists,

“...nothing can prevent the people of Zimbabwe, led by the Patriotic Front, from destroying the abhorrent and inhuman Salisbury regime and from attaining its independence...”

were only the black puppets and the Smith regime. The large proportion of the white population opposed to Smith, which accepted the liberation of Zimbabwe, was deliberately ignored and never mentioned.

Smith was presented, flouting all the facts, as the sole and undisputed representative of the white population. On the other hand, any black puppet, the most insignificant of tribal chiefs, the vicar of the smallest parish, any adventurer opposed to the Patriotic Front, was immediately promoted to the status of ‘interested party’ representative of a sector of the public whose opinion should be listened to and given consideration in the name of democracy.

The imperialists also tried to divide the Patriotic Front in order to attract some of its members to a new enlarged internal settlement.

The objective behind the attempt to split the Patriotic Front was to bring about the political liquidation of one of its fighting wings, discrediting it with participation in a shameful compromise. The aim was to break up the Patriotic Front, hamstringing the armed struggle, to destroy the liberation movement and sow confusion among the progressive forces which were supporting the Zimbabwean people’s struggle. That manoeuvre was frustrated by the patriotism of the Co-President of the Patriotic Front, Joshua Nkomo, who stood firm against such shameful capitulation and worked with Co-President Robert Mugabe to defend the Front’s unity.

Belittling the importance of the Patriotic Front and undermining and shifting the decisive role of the armed struggle for national liberation were essential to the imperialists’ immediate aims to protect their own interests and maintain the structure of colonial-capitalist exploitation in Zimbabwe.

Clearly, the armed struggle in Zimbabwe is continuing to develop rapidly and nothing can prevent the people of Zimbabwe, led by the Patriotic Front, from destroying the abhorrent and inhuman Salisbury regime and from attaining its independence. The intensity achieved in the armed struggle,

its extension to cover the whole territory, the massive and enthusiastic participation of the people shoulder-to-shoulder with the guerrillas, the fact that it is a struggle not only against the colonialists but also against neo-colonialism as represented by the puppets Muzorewa, Sithole and Chirau, make it impossible for imperialism to find any way out other than full recognition of the legitimate rights of the people of Zimbabwe, under the leadership of the Patriotic Front.

Faced with the approaching collapse of his regime, Ian Smith is resorting to a desperate and criminal attempt to provoke generalized war in our region. The escalation of the attacks against our country, which over the past few months have been on an increasingly wider scale, is aimed at engulfing southern Africa in a generalized war so as to create conditions which justify direct imperialist intervention in the region. Arguments based on preventing alien intervention or on the humanitarian desire to protect the lives of the settlers will not be lacking. And we know from experience that according to imperialist logic, whatever is anti-imperialist is regarded as alien, and the only humanitarian consideration is for the lives of the settlers.

In Namibia, the situation is similar. The racist regime of Pretoria has pursued its plans for the installation of a puppet regime and the fragmentation of the territory. By signing the joint communique with the South African regime, the Western Powers in practice have endorsed Pretoria’s plan for an internal settlement in Namibia. Contravening Security Council decisions and using repressive force, South Africa staged an electoral farce aimed at concealing the true nature of its puppets. We are now witnessing in Pretoria’s attempt to persuade the international community to recognise the puppet Constituent Assembly and to agree to reverse the United Nations decisions which regard SWAPO as the sole legitimate representative of the Namibian people.

At the same time, South Africa is continuing its aggression against the Peoples’ Republic of Angola to force it to withdraw

its internationalist support for the Namibian liberation struggle.

We hail the resoluteness of the Namibian people under the leadership of SWAPO, in its struggle against colonialism, in face of an enemy heavily equipped by the imperialists.

In South Africa, the situation is daily deteriorating for the apartheid regime. The South African people, under the leadership of the African National Congress (ANC) are steadily gaining in awareness and waging an heroic struggle against the Pretoria regime.

Down with Bantustans

The racist regime responded to peoples' struggle by brutally intensifying their repression. Its prisons were crammed with nationalists, who were tortured and murdered. The popular masses in revolt were subjected to the most fearful brutalities. These are clear signs that foundations of the apartheid regime were badly shaken.

In a clumsy manoeuvre designed to deceive the people of South Africa and world opinion, the racist regime tried to camouflage the most monstrous aspects of apartheid by giving a few opera tickets to a few rich Blacks and at the same time pursuing the establishment of the Bantustans.

The policy of bantustanization must be unmasked. If the Pretoria regime claims not to be a colonial power, it must recognise the right to self-determination and independence of all people throughout the territory. The inhabitants of South Africa and the international community recognize only one people in South Africa, namely the South African people, regardless of the ethnic groups or nations of which it is composed. It is this people which has so far been deprived of the fundamental and inalienable right to be responsible for the country's destiny. Attempts to bantustanize South Africa do not deceive the people; they will not avoid conflict or prevent extension of the national liberation struggle.

We believe in the victory of the South African people. We are confident that through the political efforts of the ANC and the increased consciousness of millions

of Black, Coloured, Indian and White citizens, the day will soon come when the bullets of repression will be powerless against the determination of all South Africans, young, old, men and women, who overcoming differences of colour, resolutely affirm their equal citizenship in a single country. The children and young people of Soweto will unite with the children and young people in the white suburbs once and for all to overthrow a regime which divides the people of the country and to build a united nation.

Artisans, miners, workers, civil servants, technicians and professionals of all colours and races, those whose mother tongue is Zulu or Afrikaans, those whose first language is Xhosa or English or Hindi, will join together in a single irresistible force which will effectively make South Africa the country of all. It will be a country free of the hatred, complexes and myths which have been imposed for centuries by the racists and the capitalist structure of domination. We shall overcome and we shall see a new, free, democratic, southern Africa based on justice and equality in which all will be united in the brotherly fight for progress and co-operation.

For imperialism, the preservation of South Africa as its main bastion in Africa is fundamental. This is why the Western Powers, while formally and hypocritically condemning apartheid, ensure its survival by providing economic and military support for the Pretoria regime. It is of great concern to the African and all peace-loving countries that the imperialists are providing South Africa with nuclear technology. South Africa's possession of nuclear weapons would be a very serious threat to world peace and security.

Despite all this play-acting and manoeuvring, the role and activities of imperialism in southern Africa is very clear. It wishes to preserve its main interests, which have so far been defended by the colonial and racist regimes.

How else can we explain the apparent impotence of the imperialist States against the regimes of Smith and Vorster? How can we explain that the Western Powers are incapable of preventing the supply of increasingly sophisticated weapons to the

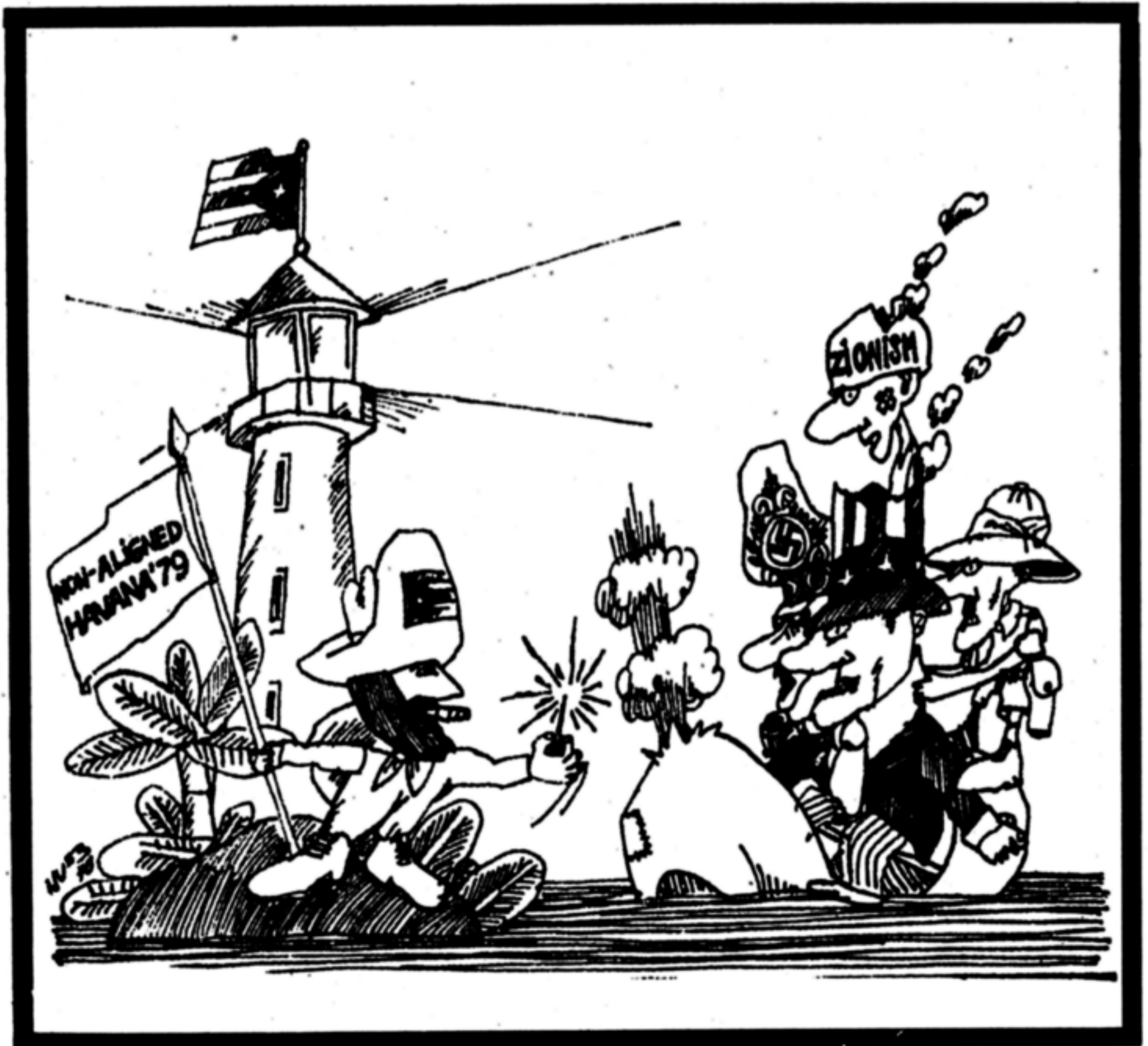
regimes which are aggressing the peoples of Zimbabwe, Namibia and South Africa. How can we explain their inability to stop 'Mirage' jet fighters of French manufacture and the most up to date helicopters and bombs of North American manufacture being made available to the Salisbury regime? How can we understand their inability to stop mercenaries being recruited in their countries for the racist forces?

How can we explain the attitude of the imperialists which today condemn the supply of arms to racist regimes, after having built the factories and provided the technology which those countries need for the production of most sophisticated weapons?

How can we justify the imperialists condemning the introduction of nuclear arms by Pretoria when the countries so doing are the very ones which supply all the means required for manufacturing atomic weapons?

We note with concern the growing imperialist military presence in the Indian Ocean, bases being maintained and reinforced, new naval units being added, and nuclear weapons being introduced. This ever-increasing presence constitutes a threat for our Peoples, is aimed at intimidating us, and is a base for aggression against our countries.

It is with profound concern that we



observe the growth of imperialism in the area. On the Comoros imperialism went as far as organizing mercenary forces, overthrowing a legitimate regime, assassinating the chief of State and patriots; it put mercenaries and puppets in power and did all it could to keep a sovereign State divided, a State which is a member of the OAU and of our own Movement.

The occupation of Mayotte and the recognition of the mercenary government constitute an insult for Africa, for the Non-Aligned Movement and for the dignity of our Peoples. The recent dispatch of an imperialist fleet to the Indian Ocean and the Arabian Gulf shows the imperialists' concern to prevent the Peoples of our area choosing their own regimes freely.

The interests of imperialism in our zone are very clear. Dominion over this area is revealed to be the strategic objective of imperialism owing to the huge mineral resources to be found there and to the importance of the route round the Cape, fundamental factors for maintaining their hegemony.

Mr. Chairman,

Distinguished Delegates,

the foregoing is the position which the Co-ordinating Bureau is facing in Southern Africa: a situation of open confrontation between our Peoples and imperialism. A situation of determined progress by the forces of Liberation. A situation of obstinacy on the part of the racist and minority regimes in opposition to the emancipation of our Peoples. A situation of growing intervention by the imperialist powers against the complete freedom of our Peoples and attempts to destroy the peoples' democratic States established in Mozambique and Angola. A situation of aggression against Mozambique, Angola, Botswana, Zambia and Tanzania, to prevent them exercising their right and duty of solidarity towards the oppressed Peoples.

Tasks and Responsibilities

This situation calls for a profound study by all of us, and particularly by the Co-ordinating Bureau of our Movement, to consider seriously the concrete measures to

be taken to support the struggle for liberation at this decisive stage in the history of the peoples of Southern Africa. We are convinced that this special session of the Co-ordinating Bureau will find ways and means to co-ordinate our action for giving greater support to the Peoples of Zimbabwe, Namibia and South Africa under the leadership of their respective Liberation Movements, the Patriotic Front, SWAPO and ANC.

On the international level we must isolate completely the minority and racist regimes of Salisbury and Pretoria.

The Patriotic Front must be recognized as the sole legitimate representative of the people of Zimbabwe, for it is the Patriotic Front which effectively unites and organises the People in its fight against the Ian Smith regime and which is defending the true interests and aspiration of the people of Zimbabwe. The puppets are an integral part of the racist and illegal regime.

To support the people of Zimbabwe means supporting the armed struggle for national liberation, the only way to achieve true independence. The negotiating table must then bow down to the realities and victories obtained on the battlefield.

We must use every means to fight for the strict application of the sanctions called for by the international community and for their being extended to cover every measure provided for in the United Nations Charter.

As regards Namibia we must strengthen our support to SWAPO, the sole representative of the Namibia people, providing material, financial and military aid for the armed struggle for national liberation.

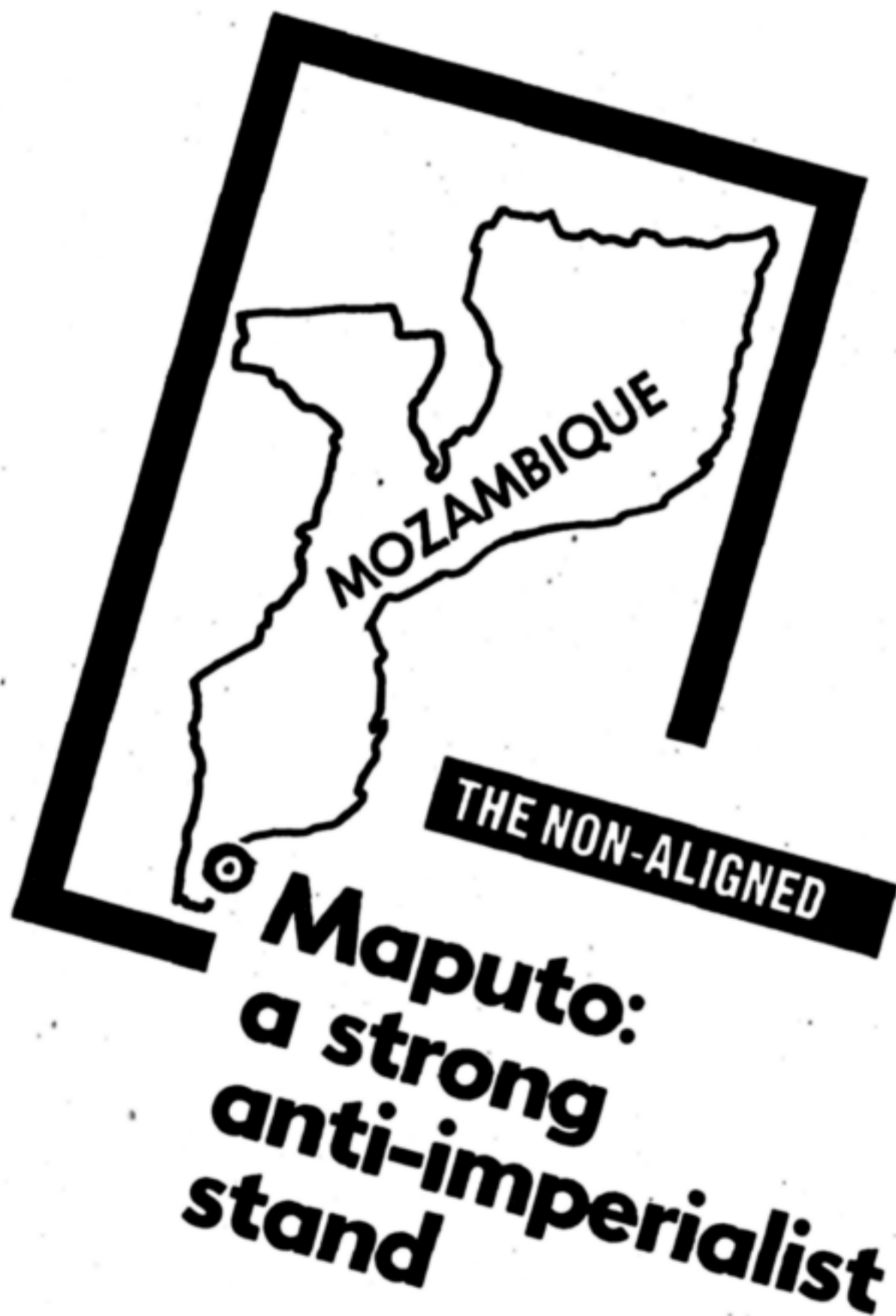
We must take action to force the Pretoria regime to comply with the plan for the independence of Namibia as approved by the United Nations Security Council and to denounce the role played by the imperialist powers in trying to cover up the manoeuvres undertaken by the Pretoria regime. We must stand vigilant against every manoeuvre aimed at confirming the separation of Walvis Bay and isolating SWAPO.

We must provide concrete and efficacious support for the people of South Africa in their struggle against the brutal and inhuman regime oppressing them.

Internationally we must denounce the oppression under which the people of South Africa are suffering. We must unmask the hypocritical manoeuvres which, accompanied by violence and oppression, aim to make the world believe that the regime is changing. We must stand in the way of any kind of recognition of the Bantustans which seek to balkanise South Africa and maintain the racist structure of domination.

It is also essential that the Non-Aligned

Movement support the immediate strategic rearguard of the struggle for national liberation in southern Africa, the front-line States. Help against the aggressions to which the front-line countries are subjected is a means of supporting the struggle for liberation in Southern Africa. Of equal importance is our support to States like Lesotho which are isolated from the world and preserve their national independence and solidarity with oppressed Peoples under difficult conditions.





The Mozambican delegation at the Havana Youth Festival, July 1978

Mr. Chairman,

We wish to express our deep appreciation to all the member countries of our Movement for their vital contributions to the strengthening of our united action. It is this unity which has enabled us to take firm stands forcing the enemy to retreat.

The important decisions which will be taken by this meeting will constitute a starting point, a new drive, but also a step forward in our struggle and will help us to take firm stands at the forthcoming summit of our Movement to be held in Havana.

The statements, messages and decisions taken here will provide a powerful stimulus for the people who, but a few score miles from Maputo, are fighting under conditions of utmost hardship and sacrificing their lives for the achievement of the ideals of the countries of the Non-Aligned Movement: liberty, independence, justice, progress and Peace.

The next Non-Aligned Summit, due to take place in Cuba, herself a victim of aggression, with part of her territory under occupation, bordering on imperialism's greatest stronghold, constitutes a message of hope for the peoples of Latin America in their struggle against imperialism and fascism, against poverty and under-development.

In terms of territory Cuba is a small country, but great in terms of history and of the determination of her people. A country which shook off the chains of imperialism and under-development and which today is in a position to send thousands of her sons to help consolidate independence and development for other countries.

The holding of the Summit of our Movement in the Republic of Cuba is a source of joy for us and an important victory against imperialism.

Mr. Chairman,

Distinguished Delegates

We would like once again to wish you well and to express the warm welcome of the entire Mozambique nation to the delegates of this meeting of the Co-ordinating Bureau of the Non-Aligned Movement.

We feel that holding this important meeting in our capital is an act of solidarity with the struggle of the people of Southern Africa.

We wish you every success in your work and may they bring success to the struggle of our Peoples.