



September, 1972 #15

Information is ammunition for your struggle. A fighter without ammunition is not a fighter. And for you, a fighter without information cannot speak.

Samora M. Machel, President of FRELIMO
to CFM delegation, Dar es Salaam, 8/71.

Mozambique Liberation Front
P.O. Box 15274
Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

Message of the President of FRELIMO on the occasion of the launching of armed struggle in the Province of Manica e Sofala.

Comrades,

We want to announce to you an event of extreme importance in the development of our fight. Our armed struggle for national liberation has spread to yet another Province.

In line with the watchword laid down in the 25 September message of last year, the Popular Forces for the Liberation of Mozambique have begun military operations in the Province of Manica e Sofala.

The struggle was begun according to plan. On the 25th July we attacked various strategic objectives in this Province.

The armed struggle has thus established itself on another front and a new Province is beginning to free itself from colonial oppression. The fruits of the gigantic and united efforts of the whole Mozambican people, from the Ruvuma to the Maputo, are gradually maturing. The sacrifices, the marches, and the lives generously offered, are starting to be transformed into freedom for the people.

The launching of the struggle in Manica e Sofala is the result of the determination, courage, patriotism and consciousness of the people, the fighters, the cadres and leaders of the Province. But it is also the result of the strength and the fight of all Mozambicans, particularly in those provinces already engaged in armed struggle. The more fires there are in the forest, the less chance the enemy has of smothering the new flames that arise.

In this context we must salute the exemplary consciousness of our comrades in Tete Province which enabled them to take on the line of our Party and thus transform themselves into a support base for the extension of the struggle into new zones. In doing this, they were also consolidating the situation in Tete.

More wounds are bleeding in the colonialist's body, his strength is increasingly sapped, his desperation grows day by day.

The people of Manica e Sofala knew how to assume our discipline, and our main tactics and strategies.

While still under forced labour, the palmatoria, taxes, while taken to the sugar companies' fields of death, and suffering the asphyxiating dust of the cement factories, and despite the whip while building roads, the people of Manica e Sofala patiently awaited the Party's orders. They waited with discipline until the common strength could create favourable conditions for the launching of the struggle. By acting in this way, the people of Manica e Sofala showed that they knew how to transform their suffering into revolutionary determination, and demonstrated that they possessed the necessary political maturity to take our way of liberation to victory.

The opening of the new front is a major defeat for Portuguese colonialism and for imperialism. Manica e Sofala is a strategic centre for the dispersement of the colonial forces; the recent move of the enemy Military High Command headquarters from Nampula to Beira shows clearly its military importance.

Through its mineral and agricultural riches, its industrial activity, and the importance of its communications network, Manica e Sofala is one of the most important sources for the colonialist and imperialist economic exploitation of our country.

Dozens of American, British, French, German, Japanese and Portuguese companies, gaining fabulous profits, are exploiting both the wealth and the workers of this Province. It is clear therefore that the opening of the struggle in Manica e Sofala has a profound effect on the colonialist and imperialist structure of exploitation. The dreams and promises of speedy victory which the colonialist High Command has traditionally been promising its demoralized troops, have suffered a fatal blow. Kaulza will have to invent new lies, to hide the final defeat that is approaching closer each day.

It is also certain that the enemy, wounded in one of his most painful and sensitive points will react by using methods that are even more brutal, fierce and criminal than before. We must be aware that the waves of imprisonment, torture, bombing and massacres will be increased, will be more intensive and systematic.

Another factor is that, given the strategic situation of the Province in relation to the rest of southern Africa, we should realise that in Manica e Sofala the forces of imperialism and the South African and Rhodesian racists will do all they can to crush our struggle. They will fail. The crimes they now commit and their aggression against our People are fuel on the flames of the people's war. And we are also certain that the strength of the racist and imperialist alliance will find a corresponding development in international solidarity among the progressive forces who support us.



frelimo vencerá

Our victory today also belongs to all people; those who are fighting at our side, especially in Angola and Guine-Bissau, those who are firmly supporting us in Africa and the world; it is a victory for our allies of the socialist countries; it is a victory for the Portuguese people who are themselves struggling against fascism and the colonial wars.

On launching the struggle in Manica e Sofala, where a significant number of the Portuguese community in our country can be found, we wish to reaffirm that our struggle is not against them, that our victory can only be of benefit to those who live by honest work, and those who suffer from fascist and colonialist exploitation. The Mozambican people fraternally invites the Portuguese soldiers and the Portuguese population to unite in the common endeavour for liberation.

In this 10th year of FRELIMO's existence, at a time when we have completed the celebration for 25 June and are preparing to celebrate 25 September, the united action of the People and the combatants of FRELIMO opened a new front.

It is a moment of great happiness and pride for the whole Mozambican people. But it is also a moment when we commemorate with deep feeling the memory of comrades who have heroically sacrificed themselves for the liberation of our land and our People - on the battlefield, in clandestine action or in the colonialist prisons and through their blood and sacrifice have made this great victory possible.

We must be worthy of this pure and generous blood. We must intensify the fight, consolidate the struggle in Manica e Sofala and in the other Provinces and extend the struggle to new fronts.

A LUTA CONTINUA
INDEPENDENCIA OU MORTE
VENCEREMOS

Samora Moises Machel
President.

13 September, 1972