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REDUCED TO SUB-HUMAN

Portugal's colonialism in Africa has been notorious. It has been the first, the longest, the most inhuman with perpetual ends. If squeezed by the giant Africa's liberation force, it will be the last to quit the African Continent.

Portugal stepped into Africa, south of the Sahara in 1500 during the so-called "viagem maritima a India" the discoveries which were at that time super. These discoveries brought Portugal more applouse than that recently rendered to space and moon explorers. It was the same Portugal who, being the so-called discoverer, had the first opportunity of choosing parts of interest for future colonisation although some of these parts were later usurped by brother colonialists and "protectorists".

Portugal's colonialism has, since its beginning, differed from other types of colonialism. While the rest of colonialists had been' conscious that colonisation was in all terms provisional rule, Portugal had aimed at naturalisation and etenalisation of her colonisation in Africa.

The first steps taken by Portugal to assure her coming to Africa without return was to set up the best exploitative, oppressive, degrading, subjugating, and humiliating machines at the highest level, aimed at reducing the African people to "sub-human."

The African people in the portuguese colonies have passed through many portuguese lunatic transformations: "NOS TODOS SOMOS PORTUGUESES" which means we are all portuguese. This was the first attempt followed by sorting of the inhabitants into classes as "Non-indigenous" "assimilados" and "equal citizens." All these transformations are aimed at confusing and distroying the unity of the African masses. Thus they make Africans look inferiour. African customs and tradition are considered primitive and an agony among African has been created.

Colonialism is by all means the provisional rule of a nation over other nations. Such colonialism is bound to terminate or be crushed whether be it strong or not.

The armed struggle now being waged is not the choice of the people in the colonies but an altenative to crush Portugal's colonialism.

The word "Freedom" is the new in ory of Portugal's

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colonies. It is more than a crime to pronounce the word. It is forbidden, forbidden in a such way that the word cannot be found in portuguese dictionaries. The rebellion rising in her colonies as a result of the liberation movements came as a surprise to Portugal.

Portugal's sturbornness makes her unrealistic to the existance of freedom fighting movements her colonies. A silent thought tange-ble blow inflicted a loss of 3,000 portuguese troops killed by the freedom fighters. This number appeared in Zambia Mail October 4, issue. Undoubtedly this mean progress towards the immediate uproo-ting of colonialism and the achievement of total independence for the African people.

The controvercial statements of Caetano on the future of the colonies are following in the footsteps of his predecessor, the arch dictator, Salazar whose forty years of unshaking criminality threatened the total disappearance of the African being. But Alas! They raise the eyebrows of the entire peace-loving world.

CAETANO AND THE ELECTIONS IN PORTUGAL "VERSUS INDEPENDENCE FOR THE COLONIES."

A year ago Dr. Marcelo Caetano assumed power as primaster minister of Portugal. Before celebrating his first anniversary as "O Presidente do Concelho de ministros" announced that there would be a general election in Portugal.

The ^{news} new was received by many peace-loving people of the World with a sigh of relief. There were hints that he might adopt a better policy on the African territories than his predecessor. But, many people were surprised to learn that the campaigning period was less than three months. His style was total different from that of Salazar who needed a prolonged propaganda campaign to detect opponents who dared to raise their heads above water.

The announcement coupled with the news that Caetano would "meet" the nationalists from the colonies, as put the portuguese empire in the World headlines.

This was considered a turning poing. Most encouraging was Professor Caetano's announcement in Lisbon reported by Reute# on September 30, which said, "Portugal's Prime Minister, Dr. M. Caetano has taken further steps towards liberating^{ing} his regime. He is to allow representatives of candidates to observe polling at the October general

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elections and give all candidates access to electorate rolls.

"The steps were granted in a decree which changed the electorate law of 1945.

"The decrees also provided the formation of an electorate committee to nominate the list of candidates.

"The changes will enable the opposition to have access to electorate rolls and have their own representatives observing polling for the first time since 1926."

A monthly newspaper called "Portugal Democratico" published by exiled portuguese in Brasil, is the outpiece of the opposition in Portugal. The September issue (of S. Paulo, Rio de Janeiro) reported that the minister of the Interior on July 6, made demagogic declarations to the press. He said that liberty to meet for the preparation of the candidates should be secured. On August 9, the Attorney General of the Republic said:-

1. The existence of the Electoral Democratic Commission of Lisbon is unlawful under Act 2 of the Decree Law 36.660 of May 20, 1954.
2. Those who may directly administer or participate in activities of no-acknowledged association, section of Act 6, are committed to subversion of the peace and are violating the Decree Law No. 37.447.
3. Promoters and adherents of such associations shall be dealt with under security Act 7 of the Decree Law No. 40.550 because they have communistic nature and bring subversive activities against the security of the State.

These are the obstacles the Fascist regime places on people who want change in Portugal.

The last general elections was held in 1957. In 1963, President Americo Tomas was installed unopposed by Salazar's Fascist National Assembly. The Principal opponent of Salazar's regime in the 1957 elections was General Humberto Delgado, an air-force commander.

He, as a leader of the opposition, threw all his propaganda against Salazar. He told the public about Salazar's crimes and publicly declared that when ^{he} came to power he would sack Salazar. Salazar was deathly frightened. However, the PIDE (Polícia Internacional e da Defesa do Estado) stretched its iron curtain between the opposition and the electoral machinery, and made it impossible for the opposition to have access to the electoral rolls.

That was not the end of the struggle by General Delgado. In 1958 he and his friend "Capitao" Henrique Galvao seized the largest

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passenger freighter, "Santa Maria", in the Atlantic Ocean, but big European powers backed by Nato, forced Galvao to hand over the ship to Portugal. A passenger plane was also hijacked in Brasil on orders of Galvao and Delgado. The Brazilian Government intervened and the plane was seized from them and handed back to the Portuguese Government. Humberto Delgado later went to Spain where he was assassinated.

Now the colonies:

Dr. Caetano adding to his empty promises, said, "the Portuguese electorate would be consulted whether to enter into negotiations with the nationalists to grant them Self-determination". May it be known that this was only to boost his subversive words to the Portuguese who are tired in waging colonial wars.

There is wide evidence to show that the Army, industrialists, Settlers and apartheid South Africa are involved in the colonial question.

1. The army is happy to see the war go on while generals and colonels in Lisbon draw fat salaries; and those in Lourenço-Marques, Luanda and Bissau get their leisure in night clubs and rape African women.
2. Industrialists and settlers have not yet seen any threat to their financial standing. They can still finance the war on all fronts and get fat returns out of it.
3. South Africa fascist regime claims to be "guardian" of western civilisation in Mozambique and elsewhere in Portuguese territories in Africa.

Under no circumstances can South African racialsists tolerate the handing over of Mozambique to the Africans ? As thousands of their troops are now in Mozambique. And on several occasions the South African press had said that the movement of troops would be imminent if Portugal spoke about giving independence to black Africans in Mozambique.

Caetano, in changing statements when the situation is tough, falls in the same path as all imperialists. " Portugal cannot fail in her international responsibilities and neither can she fail to defend her African territories against communism", he said.

Radio South Africa reported that Caetano does not understand the demands of some Portuguese who said there should be a negotiated settlement. He termed these people chiefs of black terrorism in the overseas territories.

Dr. Franco Nogueira, who carefully interpreted the Fascist

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policies during his term as Foreign Affairs minister, resigned from his post in order to enter the political battle. He, as a defender of fascism in Portugal and overseas Portuguese territories, is an arch enemy of peace and order, like Salazar. He is threatened by the popular demands from the responsible Portuguese who feel that Portuguese territories in Africa should be granted independence. Recently, breaking his long silence after his resignation, Dr. Nogueira said: "No Government can follow United Nations steps which go against its beliefs".

A radio South Africa commentator on October 13 announced that since Caetano came to power, has never seen Nogueira eye to eye. This is a big loss to the Portuguese world. There will be no change of his policies whatsoever. It added; "We do not understand why Dr. Caetano could let a man who was so dedicated to his duties resign".

The people of Mozambique under the leadership of the Mozambique Revolutionary Committee (COREMO) know that they are oppressed and the election issue is a pipe dream and meaningless. A poor and stubborn Government like the one sitting on the heads of Mozambicans should not blind freedom fighters or the world at large that will surrender.

The people of Mozambique are not prepared to sit back and listen to words that are meaningless to the freedom of Mozambique. It is the time we grasp the lesson of the past: French imperialists did not know what negotiations meant, or do the Portuguese today. British imperialists in Kenya thought the same as the French but, were forced to leave. Will also have to force the Portuguese to leave our beloved soil, like other Africans have done.

CAST AWAY ILLUSIONS AND PREPARE FOR THE STRUGGLE

But at the same time sympathise with the millions of Portuguese who desperately fight to remove this most notorious regime.

Sooner or later, the army will purge the greedy generals who serve as tools for exploitation in Portugal and the colonies. Major Pedro Belmonte was quoted by the Zambia Mail September 13 saying that; As to so-called integrity of the nation, never in our history had our people being divide over the colonial issue as they are today. He continued: In far away Africa, shooting could give place to friendly relations, profitable for both Portugal and Africa.

IS THERE ANY MORE HUMANISTIC SENSE THAN THIS ?

October 23, 1963
... his post in order to enter the political arena...
... to include its political and economic Portuguese territories...
... such a grant of power and order, into Zambia. He is...
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