

THE CFM MEETS WITH JANET MONDLANE - HEARS NEWS OF MOZAMBIQUE INSTITUTE

On January 10 the Committee for a Free Mozambique had the privilege of meeting and talking with Janet Mondlane, wife of the late President of FRELIMO, Dr. Eduardo Mondlane, and director of the Mozambique Institute. Janet mainly spoke about the widening work of the Mozambique Institute, an organization which is in the technical and assistance fields related to the Mozambique Liberation Front. The following are outline summaries of Janet's remarks on the Institute's programs.

History: The Mozambique Institute, founded in 1962, initially concentrated on the educational needs of Mozambican refugee students. With the progress in the struggle against the Portuguese, the interconnections between educational, medical, social and economic needs grew, and now the Institute has major functions related to Mozambicans resident in Tanzania, and to the wider population in the liberated zones of northern Mozambique.

Economic development: One of the newest programs of the Institute is that involving development training with facilities at Tunduru in southern Tanzania. There are approximately 800 refugees at Tunduru, and facilities to learn cottage industries (i.e. soap-making, smithing); the utilization of animals (donkeys, oxen, cows, pigs, sheep and goats), and agricultural techniques, new crops, and so forth. A child-care program has also been established given the number of orphans coming from interior Mozambique, and the necessity techniques in childcare for people returning to the liberated areas.

Education: At Tunduru there is a primary school for 450 children, while the secondary school at Bagamoyo north of Dar es Salaam was opened in October, 1970 and is already in need of new buildings and equipment. At Bagamoyo there are several programs for the training of teachers, one short term two week course for teachers from the liberated areas where there are 20,000 pupils or more. Janet stressed that there is a great need for teachers inside Mozambique, and that training is adapted for them to use readily available equipment. At Bagamoyo there is also a course in accounting and book-keeping.

Health: At the Dr. Americo Boavida Hospital in Mtwara (250 miles south of Dar es Salaam), there are 67 beds and a surgical unit. There are plans for other units including X-Ray, orthopedic and anesthesiological ones. The out patient work of the hospital is also important as patients and their families live nearby and need training, housing and education. There are three levels of health inside Mozambique: provincial hospitals, medical posts and medical stations, all serviced with drugs and essential supplies by the Mtwara center. Work is underway to perfect a pony-express supply system through the use of kerosene run portable refrigeration packs. The health program is in tremendous need of drugs, from aspirin to vaccines. FRELIMO has carried out preventative medical programs in the liberated zone through an inoculation campaign.

Printing House: The Finnish Union of Secondary Students contributed an offset press and technical printing advisor. Mozambicans are being trained to use the press which is located in Dar.

Janet spoke of other programs, of the need for seeds, for example, after the Portuguese offensive last summer. In Tete Province schools are opening quickly as the region has more educated potential teachers. She also spoke of the work of fellow support groups, in particular that of the Angola Comite in Amsterdam and Project Mozambique in Canada. Janet inspired us, encouraged our work, gave us concrete ideas for new ways to give tangible support to the struggle of the Mozambican people. Obrigado -- Obrigada.

FRELIMO COMMUNIQUE

N. 14/70

The situation in the liberated zones of FRELIMO has returned to normal. Having been defeated in their "big offensive," "operation Gordian Knot," in September, the Portuguese forces have not tried any other operation of that kind. The great losses they suffered in men and material created new contradictions among the colonialist authorities: a strong movement, headed by the officers who have been involved in the war since the beginning, based on their experience opposed what they called "military adventures," which are extremely costly and which are not bringing any results.

Kaulza de Arriaga, the new general appointed only last March as military commander in Mozambique had to give up and renounce the continuation of the offensive. He came with the idea of a lightning victory over FRELIMO, which he wanted to appear as a personal achievement added to his glory (the mythical name he gave to his offensive reveals his character: Arriaga wanted to cut the "Gordian Knot" of our resistance and so emulate the legendary achievement of Alexander the Great.

Unable to justify his adventures with concrete results and confronted with a general defeat, he had to give up.

But the Portuguese authorities had to try and save the prestige of their army, in the face of the big propaganda campaign they had mounted internally and internationally around this offensive. Their army would 'wipe out' FRELIMO in a few weeks, they had announced. So, the authorities had to continue issuing periodic war communiques claiming "complete victory over FRELIMO," "passage to a new phase of the offensive." These claims are absolutely unfounded. As a cameraman who visited our liberated zones in Niassa Province in October and witnessed the development of our struggle rightly commented: "The Portuguese reports have begun to defeat their own objective: for if FRELIMO had been wiped out in June, how could they be wiped out again in August and then in October and now again in December?"

In fact, the offensive ended in September with the Portuguese having been repulsed from our zones after suffering extremely heavy losses. The actions they continue to undertake, and these intensively, are air bombings with conventional and napalm bombs. Our work of national reconstruction has returned to its normal rhythm.

The military operations in the liberated zones are routine operations, with our guerrillas and our people ready to deal with any new offensive which the Portuguese may try to launch. In the advance zones our offensive proceeds.

Military Report.

During the period between 25 September and 7 November, 1970, FRELIMO forces in Cabo Delgado and Niassa undertook 34 major operations, in which 27 vehicles were destroyed, more than 200 Portuguese soldiers were killed, 2 bridges were blown up (over rivers Luambaia and Rureco) and 6 posts and camps were attacked-- in Mitamba, (twice), Quinazi, Chipemba, Miandica, Marrupa and Chamba.

One train was ambushed and the locomotive destroyed with bazooka fire on the railway between Catur and Conjerenje in Southern Niassa.

AND in Cabo Delgado a U.S. made AIRCRAFT WAS SHOT DOWN near the post of Nangololo between Mueda and Mocimboa-da-Praia. The markings were: "No. 5401 II Modelo VELLV Z 9IR4 - 10 ABR 70 - PART 2.275.000 UNION N.J. U.S.A. .