



cfm news & notes

DECEMBER, 1971 # 10

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.

L'An Huit de la Revolution Mocambiquenne

Excerpts from the speech of Mr. Sharfudine M. Khan before the Fourth Committee of the United Nations General Assembly, November 1, 1971.

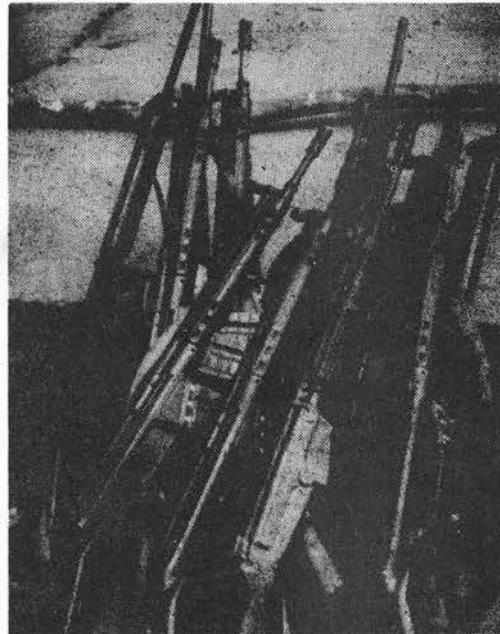
The Fire of the Liberation Struggle Spreads.--"As you may know, we have just completed seven years and entered on the eighth year of armed struggle that enabled us to become what we are: 'a conscious and united people, a people with a country, a people creating a new society through struggle and sacrifice,' said our President, Comrade Samora Machel. The companies that are disappearing from Mozambique today, the machila that is beginning to be forgotten, the administration, the palmatoria, the colonial taxes, the forced labor--all that started to die on 25 September, 1964. The schools and hospitals, the co-operatives--everything that has been created and is growing in our country was born on 25 September. It is true that most of our country is still not free, is owned by the companies. It is true that most of our people are still not free, are enslaved people, sold to the mines in South Africa, imprisoned people held in concentration camps, humiliated people receiving orders from foreigners. All this is true--what we have accomplished and what remains to be done.....

"With the eighth year, our freedom will become even more real, just as the ignominious defeat of Portuguese colonialism will become more real. In 1970 the enemy tried to win a quick victory and met with defeat. This year, 1971, they have tried to be more flexible and less adventurous; they have attempted to combine crimes against our people with political manoeuvres aimed at sewing confusion. This too has failed. After the end of the dry season, our fighters south of the Zambezi had created the conditions for expanding the armed struggle. By the end of the year, the flames of war had already attained the southern bank of the Zambezi. . . .South of the axis Montepuez--Porto Amelia, south of Macanhelas, along the outer limits of the eastern zone of Niassa, south and east of the Zambezi, the great fire which consumes colonialism is spreading. . . .

"This year, because the enemy armed forces suffered heavy reverses, because the combat zone expanded and because our forces maintained a consistent offensive, despite all thier intentions and threats, the enemy were incapable of launching any large-scale ground offensive. Hence the intensification of their criminal and barbarous acts against the people: massacres of the population, bombing raids, incursions against granaries and cultivated plots, and the burning and looting of villages. Portuguese terrorist action is being cynically combined with psychological action aimed at leading the people astray with political promises which are as demagogic as they are devoid of content, like the promise of autonomy, for example. This development, this new tactic of enemy duplicity, is what we find when we analyze the present situation. . . .



Bucket made from unexploded bomb



NATO weapons captured by liberation fighters in Portuguese Africa

The Struggle Becomes International.--"The colonialists are also trying to further internationalize their war against our people. Although enemy forces already number more than 70,000 men in Mozambique brought from Portugal, these forces are not able to deter the advance of our forces. All Portuguese attempts to impede our advance have failed and resulted in growing losses among the Portuguese troops. On the other hand, the advance of the struggle in Angola and Guinea (Bissau), the appearance of armed anti-colonialist action in Portugal itself and the great number of desertions from the Portuguese forces are preventing the enemy "High Command" from significantly increasing their total strength in Mozambique. Therefore, Portugal--which claims to be protecting Mozambique from foreign invasion--is bringing foreign troops into Mozambique. Portugal--which claims not to be racist--is installing racist troops from racist South Africa and racist Rhodesia in Mozambique. Portugal--which is always screaming that our struggle is financed and sustained from abroad--is not only bringing mercenaries to Mozambique, but is also begging its imperialist master for money and aid. . . .

The British Recolonization of "Rhodesia": the Implications for Mozambique.--"This is how we see the meaning of the five points in the so-called 'formula for eventual independence' for the brothers of Zimbabwe--Southern Rhodesia. . . ." "The intention of the United Kingdom in negotiating its right to recolonize Southern Rhodesia under the guise of this 'formula for eventual independence' is to be again in the spot by itself, for it might have sensed that the rebel and illegal regime of the white minority settlers could not hold the situation for long because of limited war material and poorly qualified soldiers who, on the other hand, are supposed to help the poorest qualified and ill-educated Portuguese soldiers to fight the guerrillas in Mozambique. The coming to power of the United Kingdom in Southern Rhodesia would mean that we would see two problems being taken care of automatically: a) the termination of sanctions against Rhodesia, and b) the normalization of economic life. Once sanctions against Rhodesia are terminated and the economic life, therefore, brought back to a normal pace, Rhodesia's capacity to spend more on what they might call 'national defense' will be enhanced. Meanwhile, the resumption of economic life for Rhodesia will benefit the fascist and colonialist Portuguese in Mozambique, for all the goods [destined for "Rhodesia"] are transported through Mozambique ports. Obviously the Portuguese will in their turn, nourish their own critical financial and economic situation and will therefore be in a better position to be more stubborn, more repressive and more adventuresome in their aggressions against our people and the neighboring independent countries. What may be expected once the United Kingdom regains power in Rhodesia is the reinstallation of its military base, commanded and equipped by Great Britain and maintained at the expense of Southern Rhodesia's income. Certainly it will aim to recompense its military might. At the same time, the building-up of military equipment and material in the area will be done with ease. No room will be left for anyone to launch an all-out attack against it, and no explanation will be required in such a situation. Therefore, Portuguese and South African fascism, both of which are based on the philosophy of white supremacy, will be protected. . . .

The American Role.--"It is interesting to note, in addition, that at the same time as the United Kingdom is endeavouring to negotiate an end to UDI with the rebel Smith of Southern Rhodesia, an act which calls for a breakthrough in the wall of sanctions imposed against the Southern Rhodesian racist regime by the United Nations Security Council has been passed by the United States Senate and reported in the press here. I am referring to the issue of purchasing chrome ore from Southern Rhodesia instead of from the Soviet Union. . . . It is needless to remark on the aggressive tone of the Senator who proposed the bill But it is important to note the implications of this U.S. Senate action in regard to the purpose of the sanctions and the subsequent long-term consequences of it in southern Africa, particularly Mozambique. . . . We see this move as another device of neo-colonialism, designed to preserve the area for exploitation of human and natural resources by the imperialists and designed to perpetuate the racist, fascist and colonialist regimes of white minority settlers in the area. Thus, considering this act along with the sale of Boeing planes by the Nixon administration to Portugal at the beginning of this year, with the specific purpose of transporting troops from Portugal to the African Territories under Portuguese domination; considering the subsequent sale of Bell helicopters by the Nixon administration to the Portuguese colonialists, also for use in its colonies; considering the numerous visits made to Mozambique, Angola and Guinea (Bissau) and other areas of southern Africa by top United States financial and economic interests in the Portuguese-dominated Territories, as witnessed by the presence of at least 25 American companies now active in Mozambique and Angola; considering the top-level visit of the Vice-President of the United States to Portugal this past summer, after which it was reported by unofficial sources that a promise of substantial support to Portugal in its colonial wars had been made; considering the active participation of the United States in the NATO meeting in Lisbon in May of this year; considering the United States reservation to condemn Portugal in the Security Council after the treacherous and abortive Portuguese invasion against the Republic of Guinea; considering the significant fact that there are American engineers and technicians, side by side with West German, British, French and South American technicians, currently working on the Cabora Bassa dam project, (as reported in the 6 October, 1971 issue of the Financial Times); and considering, finally, the withdrawal of the United States from the United Nations Special Committee of Twenty-Four, along with that of the British, and the fact that all of the acts enumerated above were performed subsequent to this withdrawal--with all of these considerations in mind, we have no alternative but to conclude that 'like mother, like daughter,' the United States follows in the footsteps of the United Kingdom, and that both are determined not to contribute to the decolonization process in Africabut rather, to jeopardize the struggles for freedom in southern Africa. . . ."

NEWS FLASH *** NEWS FLASH *** NEWS FLASH *** NEWS FLASH *** NEWS FLASH

HERBICIDES TO DESTROY PAIGC HARVEST (From telegram to ACOA from Amilcar Cabral, November 10, 1971)

"Desperate in the face of the great victories brought by our party during this year, the criminal Portuguese colonialists have launched a wave of savage air bombings since August against the peasant population in our liberated areas. As of the end of October, 38 villages were destroyed, 7 women and 8 children killed and 28 wounded.

"They have not succeeded in terrorizing or demoralizing our people in their determination to pursue the just struggle for liberty, peace and progress. I bring to your attention that the Portuguese colonialists are feverishly preparing to spread toxic chemical products to destroy our crops before the next harvest. The goal is clearly to stop our struggle by famine. We face dismal prospects resulting from these preparations.

"We request that you take all measures in your reach to denounce and condemn in advance this monstrous crime against Africa and humanity."

ARMED REVOLUTIONARY ACTION (ARA) STRIKES WITHIN PORTUGAL (From Le Monde, November 10, 14, 19, 1971)

Underground NATO installations were destroyed in a bomb blast on November 8, at Caparica. This attack took place just 12 days after another blast in the new quarters for North Atlantic naval operations.

On November 12, a battery of canon was destroyed in a bomb blast 12 kilometers outside of Lisbon. On November 17, a fire caused considerable damage in the archives of Portuguese Army General Headquarters in Lisbon.

WAR & EMIGRATION A DRAIN ON PORTUGAL'S RESOURCES (From O'Shaughnessy article, Fin. Times (U.K.) November 16, 1971)

"...the difficulties and loss of blood that Portugal is having to put up with in Africa are far exceeded by the loss of blood which is flowing out of continental Portugal to other parts of Western Europe. Portugal is now faced with a mass exodus of workers, who are fleeing the homeland in search of better conditions in cities like Paris and London. ...Caetano himself has referred to this process as a veritable 'bloodletting.' There are now more than half a million Portuguese in France and tens of thousands in Britain, so that a list of the four cities which contain most Portuguese would today probably read Lisbon, Paris, Oporto, London. Bad working conditions in the countryside and a lack of opportunity for advancement in the towns have combined with the pull of the booming labor market in the EEC to attract up to 160,000 Portuguese a year from their mother country. The number has been augmented to a small but very significant degree by the flight of middle class intellectuals unwilling to serve in a colonial war.

"...This loss of two percent of the population a year is, more than the African war, the greatest menace to Portugal today....In some villages only the women and the old men are left and some of the land is going out of cultivation."

committee for a FREE MOZAMBIQUE



616 WEST 116TH STREET #1A

NEW YORK, N.Y. 10027

December 2, 1971

Dear Friends of Mozambique,

This letter is the 1971 appeal to members and supporters for financial support.

By the end of November, CFM had raised \$4023 within this year. Of course the CFM goal is not a financial one, rather it is freedom for Mozambique-- which may take a lot of time and a lot of endurance and support, not only for the year CFM has existed, but year after year.

That goal is achieved partly through education of people in the U.S. about the struggle in Mozambique. But it is also achieved by uniting together our insignificant donations so that together we become a force. This force then supports the concrete needs of the people in Mozambique.

You should be part of this force. If you can, pledge monthly and you will receive a monthly reminder. If not, a donation of any size will be appreciated. If you like, mark your support for Project Transister and it will go toward buying radios for liberated villages in Mozambique. If you have the need to make a tax deductible contribution, send it to the American Committee On Africa, 164 Madison Ave., NYC; made out to the Africa Fund and tell them it is to go to the programs of the Mozambique Institute.

The Committee for a Free Mozambique hopes to hear from you soon. Until then, best wishes for the holiday season and for the new year.

A luta continua,

Committee for a Free Mozambique

NY Working Committee
and Pledgers

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