

international struggles
number 6

FOCUS ON MOZAMBIQUE



He who would not give in
Has been done to death
He who was done to death,
Would not give in.

The warner's mouth
Is stopped with earth.
The bloody adventure
Begins
Over the grave of one who loved peace
Slog the battalions.

Was the fight in vain, then?

When he who did not fight alone is done to death
The enemy
Has not yet won.

bertolt brecht

We dedicate these pages to one of the most valiant leaders of Africa. The tragic death of Comrade Samora Machel has deprived the world of one of its greatest working class leaders. Comrade Machel dedicated his life to fight against the colonisation and exploitation of his people.

Together with his comrades in the Mozambican Liberation Front (FRELIMO), they defeated the superior military might of imperialist Portugal. It was this victory that changed the course of the Zimbabwean struggle and led to the downfall of the Smith regime.



Graffiti on Vladimir Lenin Avenue, Maputo, reads:
'Death to the Bandits'

While trying to rebuild after centuries of European plunder, the Mozambican people are faced with enormous difficulties. Severe drought and other natural disasters have ravaged the country, resulting in a widespread shortage of essential goods. The Botha government has played a major role in the economic instability of Mozambique through boycott, a reduction in goods shipped through Mozambican ports, a cut in the number of miners working in South Africa, and other devices.

Coupled to this, the Frelimo government has to also deal with armed aggression waged against it. Supported by South Africa and the United States of America, the Mozambican National Resistance Movement (Renamo) engage in terrorist activities intent on destabilising the country even further.

We share the pain experienced by the people of Mozambique, but are certain that the struggle in defence of their revolution will be victorious. Socialism will triumph in southern Africa!

quotations taken from speeches
delivered by comrade machel



on criticism

on the nation

"It is not the personal fight of one man wrapped up in himself. It is a mass struggle in which we accept criticism and self-criticism, purifying ourselves in their fire, which makes us conscious of the path to be followed . . ."

"Our struggle killed the tribe. It was the first thing we killed because the enemy's strength is tribalism. So we had no hesitation in acting against tribalists, racists and regionalists. We killed the tribe to give birth to the nation".



on women

"The emancipation of women is not an act of charity, the result of humanitarian or compassionate attitude. The liberation of women is a fundamental necessity of the revolution, the guarantee of its continuity and the precondition of its victory. The main objective of the revolution is to destroy the system of exploitation and build a new society which releases the potentiality of human beings, reconciling them with labour and with nature. This is the context within which the question of women's emancipation arises".

on democracy

"Our decisions must always be democratic in both content and form. "Content" means that they must reflect the real interests of the masses. "Form" means that the broad masses must take part in arriving at the decision, feeling that it is theirs and not something imposed from above".

on children

"We want them not to know hunger, poverty and war, not to face wretchedness and unemployment. We want them to live in a society where the only yardstick for the human being is dignity, labour and dedication to the people and country".

