

“Fight to the End for Mozambique’s Independence and Freedom!”

— Interviews with the Delegation of the Liberation Front of Mozambique

Seven years of armed struggle have seen the patriotic armed forces under the leadership of the Liberation Front of Mozambique developing and growing stronger daily. They have now liberated one-fourth of the country and have extended their armed struggle to one-third of the whole of Mozambique. Following is an account of the interviews in Peking Hsinhua News Agency correspondents had with Samora Moises Machel, President of the Liberation Front of Mozambique, and members of the Liberation Front Delegation led by him.

LET us start from the struggle of the Mozambique people!” said President Samora and other members of the delegation as they spoke about the heroic struggles of the Mozambique guerrillas.

“Independence or Death!”

This moving story happened in April last year.

One day, Liberation Front fighters decided to attack the Portuguese colonialist troops stationed in a “strategic village” in the Kawaza area of the Tete District and liberate the people there. During the battle, the guerrillas fiercely charged the enemy troops and killed and wounded many of them. When victory was in sight, an enemy light machine-gun suddenly opened up and pinned down the guerrillas on open ground. At this critical moment, one young fighter without hesitation ran zigzagging towards the enemy machine-gun. As he got near, he pulled the firing pin out of a hand-grenade and shouting “Independence or death!” charged the enemy machine-gun. The following explosion knocked out the gun and the guerrilla died a glorious death. Inspired by the martyr’s heroism, the rest of the fighters charged furiously and routed the enemy. They lib-

erated the more than 500 people in the “strategic village” and captured a large quantity of arms and food.

President Samora said that the hero in this battle was 22 years old and came from a poor peasant family in the southern part of Mozambique. Yearning to put an early end to Portuguese colonial rule, this young fighter had broken through many enemy blockades and travelled six months on foot to join the Liberation Front one year before his death. He had fought many battles and shown great valour in all of them.

“Independence or death!” is the cry of thousands upon thousands of awakened people in Mozambique. It voices the iron will of the whole people in the struggle against imperialism and colonialism. To end bloody colonial rule and win national independence and freedom for their motherland, the people of Mozambique, like the young hero, are in a life-and-death struggle against the enemy.

A member of the delegation described a glorious feat of a guerrilla who valiantly died to save the masses. In one battle, this fighter was wounded in the leg and fell into enemy hands. The enemy brought him before the masses and prodding his wound with a bayonet tried to force him to name those who supported the guerrillas. The fighter knew well who the activists were and who had joined the militia as he was from this part of the country. But he refused to do so, preferring death to betraying the masses.

“Our land has been drenched with the blood of our comrades-in-arms. We must march ahead along the path crimson with their blood and fight to the end for the independence and freedom of Mozambique!” President Samora declared.

“We Are Sons of the People”

Protracted revolutionary struggle has made the Mozambique fighters deeply understand this truth: Only by mobilizing all the people can the revolutionary war be won. When President Samora spoke about the relations between the guerrillas and the masses, he said:

"We are sons of the people. The army-men are people who have taken up arms. The army and the people are inseparable. Without the provisions given by the masses, without the support and assistance of the masses, we would not have won such brilliant victories."

As this is so, he said, we always carry out mass work extensively everywhere we go and demand that our fighters constantly foster the idea of serving the people while at the same time we educate the masses to support their own armed forces. As we pay great attention to mass work, relations between the army and people are closer than ever. Many people voluntarily act as guides, gather information, transport arms and ammunition and take care of the wounded for the guerrillas and help them in battle.

President Samora and the other members of the delegation then told this story: One day in October 1969, the Portuguese colonialist troops intended to attack a guerrilla base in the Micuela area. On their way, the enemies captured an old peasant named Kambona and tried to force him to show them the way to the base. The old man refused. Seeing that they could not get any information out of him, they tortured the innocent old man to death. President Samora said with emotion: "The old man had the spirit of self-sacrifice because he regarded the guerrilla base as his own and the guerrilla fighters as sons of the people."

The crafty enemy hates the close ties between the guerrillas and the people and tries its best to destroy them by setting up concentration camps and "strategic villages" guarded by Portuguese colonialist troops. But the hearts of the ordinary people in the concentration camps and "strategic villages" are with the guerrillas fighting for national independence and liberation. They try to run away and reach the guerrillas, bringing grain with them or helping the guerrillas deliver ammunition and other war material.

"Staunchly Fight On Till Complete Victory!"

When the correspondents told President Samora how the Chinese people highly admire the Mozambique people for their just stand in supporting the Vietnamese and other Indochinese people in their war of resistance against U.S. aggression and for national salvation, President Samora took out a magazine called *Mozambi-*



Women fighters of the Mozambique patriotic armed forces on the march

que Revolution and pointed to a cartoon which showed a Mozambique guerrilla thrusting a bayonet through the head of a Portuguese colonialist on one side, while on the other was a Vietnamese people's fighter with a sub-machine gun charging at a U.S. aggressor.

He said: "The Portuguese colonialists could not keep their colonial rule going in Mozambique, Angola and Guinea (Bissau) for even a single day, if they relied on their own strength. The Portuguese colonialists are backed by world imperialism, U.S. imperialism in particular." Just as the cartoon shows, he said, we and the Vietnamese people are comrades-in-arms in the same trench. Our aim is the same, it is to oppose imperialism and colonialism and for independence and freedom for the motherland.

President Samora said that the road of struggle for the people of Mozambique was arduous and tortuous, with all kinds of difficulties ahead. The Portuguese colonialists backed by U.S. imperialism are still massacring people in Mozambique. But the people will never yield. He declared with confidence: "We will persist in protracted people's war and continuously defeat the enemy. The enemy is like an elephant while the revolutionary people are like water. An elephant is helpless in water. The enemy's strength is only transitory, while that of the people is far greater than the aggressors. We will multiply small victories into larger ones. No matter how long it takes, we'll fight on, till complete victory! We shall unite with the revolutionary people of the world, including the revolutionary Portuguese people, and fight to the end to thoroughly eliminate imperialism and colonialism!"