

Annex

Ministry of Information Communiqué dated 17 December 1976

In the last weeks a campaign to present the People's Republic of Mozambique as threat to peace and security in this area of the continent has been intensified. The People's Republic of Mozambique has been attributed with the intention of attacking South Africa and other countries in the area.

For a badly informed public it is difficult to understand the objectives of a campaign that relies exclusively on false statements or on gross distortions of the truth.

To understand this we must analyse the process that the imperialist press has been using to misinform public opinion on the real situation in the People's Republic of Mozambique.

Some months ago the Western press was spreading alarmist news about the instability of our Republic.

It was consequently said that in Cabo Delgado the population was in revolt. It reached a point where it was affirmed that in Mueda, where a massacre took place on 16 June 1960, the revolting population hoisted the Portuguese flag and set free detained Portuguese officials.

It is a lie. Portuguese officials have never been detained in Mueda. Who can imagine that the survivors of massacres would hoist the flag of those who murdered them?

This same press then began to speak of an insurrection in Nampula. Nowadays they public as fact that guerrillas operate in Cabo Delgado and Nampula under the command of Lazaro Kavandame. It is a lie. Lazaro Kavandame has been detained in a re-education camp for high treason since 1974.

According to the imperialist press, at present, the Government of the People's Republic of Mozambique does little more than control the capital.

Since August the campaign has changed its tone.

The criminal attacks of the mercenary and racist forces of the illegal régime in Salisbury are presented as being carried out by dissidents from FRELIMO.

During the past weeks they have even given the names of these dissidents: some of our comrades, such as Cara Alegre Tembe and Alfredo Maria, are presented by the imperialist press as having deserted and now commanding forces that operate from Southern Rhodesia against the People's Republic of Mozambique.

Another lie.

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At the same time they have been intensifying an alarmist campaign about the intentions of the socialist countries to use the People's Republic of Mozambique as a platform to launch operations against the racist régimes of southern Africa.

It is in this way that the imperialist press has published that the Soviet Union has installed an aero-naval base at the Tourist Centre of Bazaruto, that two Cuban pilots were shot down, that six instructors from the German Democratic Republic were captured, that an air bridge was organized to transport Cuban personnel between Angola and Mozambique. It became so ridiculous that it was said that there were 5,000 Cubans in our Republic, disguised as sugar-cane technicians, and that 25 per cent of these Cubans are to be found at the Sena Sugar Estates. It is said that Tanzanian troops are in Mozambique, the different imperialist sources disagreeing on the exact number of Tanzanian battalions that are in our territory. They even say that the Presidential bodyguard is foreign.

Again we ask: What is the objective of this campaign of lies?

The answer is: to intimidate the People's Republic of Mozambique, to stop the revolutionary process, to prevent it from proceeding with the building of its armed forces, thus making it incapable of efficiently defending its sovereignty.

The People's Republic of Mozambique is a sovereign and independent State. In defence of its sovereignty and independence, under the leadership of FRELIMO, the Mozambican people and their armed wing, the People's Forces for the Liberation of Mozambique (FPLM), with a glorious tradition of struggle, will fight and crush any aggression.

The People's Republic of Mozambique has the right to appeal to its allies. Whenever it, as a sovereign State, considers the support of its allies to be necessary, the People's Republic of Mozambique will use this right.

We must relate this campaign with certain facts that we know.

We have information that racist troops are concentrating on our borders. At the same time we have information that a neighbouring racist country is preparing a group of mercenaries to be clandestinely introduced into our territory. Once in Mozambique, disguised as soldiers of FPLM, they will launch simulated attacks against South Africa.

This "provocation", used by Adolf Hitler to justify his attack against Poland in 1939, is aimed at giving imperialism pretexts and justifications to attack our country.

It is in this context that the misinformation campaign is situated. Publish many successive lies, each one more gross and absurd than the other, so that in the end something remains in the minds of people.

They therefore want to:

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1. Persuade world public opinion that the liberation struggle in southern Africa is not being carried out by the oppressed peoples of southern Africa and that the liberation combat is reduced to rivalry between the United States and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. The present situation in southern Africa will be the result of the cold war, and the impetuous development of the combats in Zimbabwe, Namibia and the people's revolt in southern Africa would be reduced to "manoeuvres" by the socialist countries;

2. Induce world public opinion to think that the Government of the People's Republic of Mozambique is an aggressive Government and that the racist and imperialist forces that invade us are doing so in self-defence;

3. Persuade world public opinion that a climate of instability and people's revolt exists in Mozambique and that the imperialist lackeys that participate in the massacre and slaughter of our people are representatives of the will of the masses.

The Ministry of Information of the People's Republic of Mozambique, in exposing these facts, would like to alert national and international public opinion to the preparations for aggression being made against the People's Republic of Mozambique and denounce before hand the gross pretexts that are being used to justify and cover the racist and imperialist aggression.

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