

## MOZAMBIQUE

### ***New law strengthens Frelimo grip***

Introducing the death penalty for a wide range of offences in Mozambique last week, the Marxist Frelimo regime said the new law to punish crimes against the security of the people and the people's state is aimed at putting into motion "the most severe repression against enemies of the working masses".

Two frightening features dominate the Bill. The intention to commit an offence is considered as bad as committing it and liable to the same penalties and complicity in a crime is punishable with the same severity as the crime itself.

The list of offences is so ill-defined and all-embracing that practically any Mozambican or foreigner residing in the country is liable to prosecution.

The Bill says that crimes against the

people's state are all those "offending, endangering, hindering, prejudicing or perturbing the country's independence, integrity and sovereignty; the organisation of the Frelimo party and the State and the normal operation of its agencies; the normal running of the national economy; the political, economic and social stability of the country; and international peace".

Last week's measures are a follow-up to the dramatic statement made in the beginning of January by Frelimo's Permanent Political Committee claiming that the country is in a state of war due to the stepped-up activity of the anti-Frelimo guerrilla movement, the Mozambique National Resistance (TTP January 19 1979).

*To the Point, v. 8 n. 10, 9/3/79*