

**MOZAMBIQUE: PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS ON  
FPLM'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY; CONTACTS WITH  
MNR**

*Radio Mozambique, Maputo, in Portuguese 1803 gmt 24 Sep 89*

*Excerpts from recording of speech by Mozambique President Joaquim Chissano to armed forces generals on 24th September in Maputo to mark the 25th anniversary of the FPLM (ME/0571 ii)*

Our struggle for national liberation and against foreign occupation, exploitation, and domination will be 25 years old at midnight on 24th September. Ours was a struggle for freedom for all our people, for all people in the People's Republic of Mozambique today. This means that, at midnight, we will complete a quarter of a century of this struggle.

It sounds a long time, but, if we think that foreign domination of our country lasted centuries, we will understand how difficult it would be to eliminate all its traces. This is still therefore only a short period, giving us the right to be proud of our people's feats. After all, what we call the Mozambican Armed Forces began when our people took up arms. We, army officers, joined the struggle as people so that we could free ourselves as people. We fought for each other's interests; we fought to save each other's lives; we fought to liberate each other from slavery and domination; we fought to create freedom; we fought so that we could all freely build a united and strong nation.

That is why we had to keep our weapons in our hands, even after 10 years of armed struggle and the achievement of national independence. Our people have always had to be armed. Because of combat requirements, we had to organise ourselves in new ways. We had to form the Mozambican armed forces, but we took care to preserve the abbreviation FPLM [Popular Forces for the Liberation of Mozambique]. After all, the liberation process continues; thus, the FPLM's importance must always be on our soldier's minds. . .

In these 15 years since 1975, our tasks have been doubled. We have had to consolidate our independence, defend against foreign aggression, defend and consolidate national unity, and create conditions for launching the economic development process. . . We have the resources to become stronger as a country and a nation to secure a place among the nations of the world. We can achieve the respect we deserve. Past friends have become even closer friends. Those who had hesitated began to understand us better and became friends. I can say

today that even those who were allies of Portuguese colonialism during the national liberation armed struggle are with us now. They understand there is no room for division in Mozambique. . .

Our people today take refuge abroad not because they are against the Mozambican authorities or against the Mozambican armed forces. They flee because of terrorism waged against us from abroad. Thus, the connections between Frelimo and the people and the people and the armed forces leave no room for distinctions or limits. These links make Frelimo, the armed forces and the people one and the same. This has been one of the merits of our armed forces.

We recently held the Fifth congress. Our army, air force, navy, police, and defence and security forces played important roles in the holding of the Fifth Congress. They created the conditions for democracy to be implemented fully. I think that, if the world has been attentive, many in the world must have learned from the exercise of democracy in our country. The words popular power have a clear significance. It has been implemented in a concrete and powerful manner. This happened despite enemy attempts to prevent the exercise of democracy in our country. The Congress was held amid great victories by our armed forces, notably in central Mozambique. After the great victories of 1987, the victories of 1989 are indisputable. They are visible. They create irreversible conditions of progress for peace. The Fifth Congress was, therefore, able to make decisions on the country's economic, political and social life and to strengthen the capabilities of the armed forces and of the defence and security forces at large. . .

By safeguarding the proceedings of the Fifth Congress the armed forces defended the exercise of democracy and national unity. This is the continuing task of the armed forces. They must serve as an example for constructing national unity. They must do so through their work, relations (?among themselves), composure, and relations with the people at large. By safeguarding the holding of the Frelimo Party Fifth Congress, they defended the establishment of conditions permitting correct decisions, and those decisions came from our people themselves. Now, it is important to defend implementation of those decisions. We know that the enemy plans to impede their implementation. The enemy is aware that the decisions are indisputable; they indisputably reflect the Mozambican people's desires. The enemy knows that the people are willing to implement those decisions, which is why the enemy has already devised plans to destabilise and prevent the implementation of those decisions. Sometimes, it even tries to claim that those decisions are their own. The enemy is already speaking about its victories over certain decisions.

However, if we go back to our party policy concerning the armed forces since 1964 - when we were only a guerrilla movement - we will see that we have been consistent. Thus, there is no reason for us to bend. No one can break our backbone. We shall always hold our heads high. Thus, we must defend our people so that they can do their duties.

We are now conducting increasingly serious and decisive contacts with the armed bandit ringleaders of the so-called MNR. This requires great vigilance among the armed forces. We must act on the basis of democratic principles. The armed forces must not allow the armed bandits to continue doing

violent deeds, terrorising and murdering the people. The fact that we are willing to find peaceful ways to end terrorism will not prevent us from trying to stop the ongoing genocide in our country. We have the duty of defending our economy. This is obligatory, because our economy must serve the people. There is no sabotage that is not against the people. Sabotage operations against our railways and the destruction of buses, lorries, energy infrastructures, boats, tractors, plantations, and cellars are all against the people.

Therefore, we have the duty and the right to continue the struggle until reason prevails, because we fight on the basis of reason and of the people's desire. . . Our call now is that we must win the struggle for our economic, cultural, social, and political development so that we can consolidate true and real democracy, as well as international peace and solidarity. The struggle continues! Thank you.

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