

Mozambique Government Statement on Hostile Propaganda Campaign

Maputo in English for Rhodesia 1800 gmt 18 Dec 76

Text of statement with opening and closing announcements:

[Announcer] Tonight, instead of a commentary, the voice of Zimbabwe is broadcasting an important statement from the Government of Mozambique. [Brief musical interlude.] Anyone who listens to the radio broadcasts from the radio stations of the racist regimes in Pretoria and Salisbury, anyone who reads the racist and reactionary press in South Africa or Zimbabwe will have noticed a massive propaganda campaign against Mozambique, mounting in ferocity over the last few months. What you perhaps do not know is that this same propaganda is being circulated throughout the world by the press and radio of certain capitalist countries in the West.

The Ministry of Information of the People's Republic of Mozambique yesterday [17th December] issued a statement exposing the objectives of this campaign. In view of the importance which these revelations have for all the people of southern Africa, we are now broadcasting the Mozambican statement in full and the statement is read by a Mozambican.

[Voice recording] In the last week, a campaign to present the People's Republic of Mozambique as a 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 analyze the purpose 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 the point where it was affirmed that in Mueda, where a massacre took place on 16th 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 could hoist the flag of those who murdered them.

This same press then began to speak of an insurrection in Nampula. Now then, they published as fact that the guerrillas operate in Cabo Delgado and Nampula under the command of Lazaro Nkayandame. It is a lie. Lazaro Nkayandame is 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 on Mozambique by the mercenary and racist forces of the illegal regime in Salisbury are presented as being carried out by dissidents from Frelimo. During the past weeks, they have even given names to 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.

At the same time they have been intensifying an alarmist campaign on the intentions of the socialist countries to use the People's Republic of Mozambique as a platform to launch operations against the Rightist racist regimes of southern Africa. It is in this way that the imperialist press established 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 estate. It is said that Tanzanian troops are in Mozambique. The different imperialist sources disagree 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, 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 as 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 fascist country is preparing a group of mercenaries to be clandestinely introduced into our territory. Once in Mozambique, disguised as soldiers of the FPLM, they will launch simulated attacks against South Africa. This provocation, used by Adolf Hitler to justify his attacks against Poland in 1939, is aimed at giving imperialism pretexts and justification 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:

- (1) To prepare world's 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 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 [as heard] development of the combats in Zimbabwe, Namibia and the people's revolt in South Africa would be reduced to so-called manoeuvres by the socialist countries;
- (2) To induce world's 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 invaded us are doing so in self-defence;
- (3) To persuade world's public opinion that a climate of instability and people's revolt exist 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 preparation for an aggression being made upon the People's Republic Mozambique and denounce before them the gross pretexts that are being used to justify and cover the racist and imperialist aggression on our sovereign republic.

[Announcer] You have just been listening to a statement read by a Mozambican on imperialist manoeuvres to sabotage the independence and territorial integrity of the People's Republic of Mozambique. The statement was issued yesterday in Maputo by the Mozambican Information Agency.

The Zimbabwe People's Army is confident and certain that all imperialist manoeuvres to sabotage and hijack [as heard] the independence and integrity of the People's Republic of Mozambique will totally fail. Zipa is certain that victory for the workers, peasants and all patriotic forces throughout the world is absolutely certain.

Note 1: The above communique was reported by Maputo radio in its home service in Portuguese on 17th December (1730 gmt)

Note 2: The commentary broadcast in Maputo radio's programme in English for Rhodesia on 17th December was a repeat of one first broadcast on 3rd December, taking the form of interviews with defectors from the Rhodesian forces - ME/5382/B/3.