

## Resistance leader hits out

A few weeks ago, Russian-trained Daniel Perda Caetano (21) was commanding a member of a Frelimo anti-aircraft battery in Mozambique border town of Chicuala. Today, he is a guerrilla fighter with anti-Machel Mozambique National Resistance.

In an interview with the Resistance broadcasting station Voz da África Livre, made available to TO THE POINT, Caetano tells his story:

"I joined Frelimo in 1973, when I was only 16 and became a bush fighter in the Ilange area. In 1976, I was sent to Russia to attend a course on anti-aircraft weapons. Like all youths trained in the Soviet Union, I was forced to go to classes on communist indoctrination."

Why did he defect? He explains: "I saw how people lived oppressed and unhappy and realised I could not go on fighting for a communist Frelimo."

His views on the Frelimo army: "The so-called Forças Populares are really the party's own military forces, sworn to defend the Machel regime. And Machel's Frelimo is a minority party that does not represent the will of the Mozambique people. Therefore, those who go on serving the Forças Populares, and serving to uphold Machel's communism, are traitors."

Are there many Frelimo soldiers who think as he does? "It is difficult to say because people are afraid to talk. Everybody

fears everybody else in case the person he is talking to happens to be an agent of SNASP (the Frelimo secret police). However, morale in the Forças Populares is low."

Caetano says that, when he returned from Russia in 1977, he found that many of his friends had fled to join the Resistance. He was afraid to make inquiries how to find his way to the guerrilla bases and even more frightened of the punishment meted out to people listening to the broadcasts of Voz da África Livre.

Caetano feels strongly about the Frelimo enforced communal farming. "People are forced to work on them but the crops go to the Frelimo barns. The workers have not the right to keep the maize or the rice they grow. To avoid dying of hunger, they have to work on their own plots hidden in the bush." He adds: "People have no freedom or rights. They are treated as dogs and the party members are the masters."

As a senior army officer, Caetano had a chance to become acquainted with terrorist training in Mozambique: "Machel has turned the country into a training base for blacks from African moderate states, labelled by him as puppets of the capitalist and imperialist forces."

He revealed, from his knowledge, that there are, in Mozambique, military camps for Zimbabweans, Malawians, Swazis, Kenyans and nationals from other African countries.



Caetano: 'No freedom or rights under Machel's regime'

"There they receive military training and communist indoctrination and are later sent back to their countries to foment uprisings against their governments," he said.

Caetano claimed that the vast quantities of weaponry supplied to Mozambique by Russia, including aircraft, tanks and missiles, are not wholly for the Forças Populares but to be used for revolution in other African countries.

"Machel's ambition is to turn the African continent into a continent of communist states against the will of the peoples of those countries", said Caetano.