

Machel's Speech and Presentation of "Traitor" Officers at Anti-S Africa Rally

Maputo home service in Portuguese 0725 GMT 14 February 1981

Excerpts from broadcast of speech at 14th February rally in Independence Square, Maputo

The racist regime of South Africa is now in direct confrontation with us; this did not start on 30th January [the date of the South African raid on Matola]. For a long period now, South Africa has been recruiting, training, arming and [...] infiltrating agents into Mozambique. These agents receive direct orders from the South African secret services. "The Voice of Kizumba" [reference to "Voice of Free Africa"] is now broadcasting from one of the South African broadcasting stations. Traitors and counter-revolutionary agents are trained in South African military training camps such as the ones in Durban and (?Palaboa).

[Passage on violations of Mozambique's air space.]

Later in January [as heard], in an operation mounted by the Mozambique People's Armed Forces, FPLM, we killed about 70 elements; we captured 28 rifles, two machine-guns, six bazookas and a large quantity of ammunition. These elements had just entered our national territory at Pafuri. These activities by the minority regime are an integral part of the whole history of Boer domination in South Africa.

[Passage on South Africa's warlike policy, including reference to its "nuclear arsenal", its infiltration into Mozambique by air, land and sea of spies and saboteurs and counterfeit money, its scattering of subversive literature, and its training and sheltering of armed bandits, mercenaries and racist soldiers with the intention of destabilizing neighbouring countries.]

On 30th January at about one o'clock in the morning a South African commando unit which included Rhodesian mercenaries, attacked three homes of militants of the ANC of South Africa and members of the South African trade unions. This commando unit entered our country at about 2300 hours [...] On arrival at Matola [...] they killed a Portuguese citizen [...] a peaceful co-operative worker who worked with us in the reconstruction of Mozambique [...] [In their attack] the racist commandos used the trick of posing as elements of the FPLM who were coming to talk to ANC elements, and in Portuguese [...] In the three houses, the enemy commandos killed 12 [as heard] ANC militants. The aggression lasted about one hour [...] They left Mozambique where they had entered [...] at 0500 in the morning. In their action, they were supported by the air force which had escorted them as far as Muvene and which supported them again when leaving.

We have studied the raid in depth. We studied the activities of each individual, the behaviour of everyone in charge, what he did and how he acted. We observed that the violation of the frontier was detected at about 2330 hours by a reconnaissance group of the border troops. But the communication of this violation only reached the CGS at 0900 hours the next day. Is it by chance that the news only reached the CGS at 0900 hours when the enemy left the country at 0500 hours? A guard unit near one of the occupied houses did not react to the enemy attack. The murderous commandos were able to leave our national territory unpunished. This is sad and painful. But we have to answer the question

why there was passivity in reaction to the enemy attack. Our people say - when a sorcerer enters a house it is because someone opened a window or the door for him [applause]. Who opened the door to South Africans? [...] It was some officers of the FPLM who opened doors and windows to let in the sorcerer [...]

[At this point in his speech Machel presented eight "traitor" officers to the rally. Maputo radio, in a further account of the rally proceedings, said the eight included five captains, the commander and deputy commander of the forces stationed in Matola, and a lieutenant colonel. The radio said the "eight traitors and agents are directly or indirectly connected with the South African attack on Mozambique on 30th January. The eight traitors and agents, as officers of the Mozambican army, carried out acts of high treason, espionage, sabotage and a series of activities against the people of the PRM. After the evaluation of their cases, they will be tried by the revolutionary military tribunal, according to President Samora Machel."]

These individuals I have just presented to you are the sorcerers who bring the enemy to Mozambique [...] [Call for vigilance to protect the armed forces by denouncing suspicious behaviour of soldiers and officers and stealing, drunkenness, corruption, and the diverting of state property.]

The traitors we have just paraded are some of the agents bought, corrupted and infiltrated into our country by South Africa [...] This is the secret behind the aggression. This is the condition without which open aggression is not possible. They say that they are attacking us because of our support for the ANC [...] The ANC has representation in Britain, France, Italy, USA, the Nordic countries, throughout Africa and all socialist countries. Their militants have residences in these countries. It was in residences such as these that destruction and massacre were carried out in the early morning of 30th January [...] Now we are waiting for them to attack France, Britain, New York, the whole world, every country and all capitals because they have become residential bases of apartheid refugees [applause: passage omitted]. It is South Africa that must choose whether we have to live in peace or make war. It is for South Africa to answer. We are not scared of war [applause]. The entire Mozambican people is a product of war [applause] [...] but we are not prepared for a cold war. We prefer an open war. [applause]. We do not want to waste time massing troops on the borders and creating tension. This is cold war and we don't want it. We want South Africa to make an open war with us [applause; passage on examples in history of inevitable defeat of aggressors such as Germany and Amin]. When a snake, no matter how poisonous and threatening, leaves its hole it becomes vulnerable [...] [and] no weapon is needed to kill it. Let the South Africans come. But they must be sure that the war will end in Pretoria [applause followed by slogans: passage omitted].

When the minority regime of South Africa attacks the PRM, it is attacking the political and organizational offensive mounted a year ago. That offensive is the purging of our ranks, the detection of infiltrators and the progressive neutralization of its [South Africa's] agents in our midst. The offensive is the freeing of mentalities, a movement of cultural liberation, and it is the creation of conditions to reduce our economic dependence on imperialism and South Africa [...] As I have said, history has proved that the aggressor is always defeated. Liberation is an irreversible force [...] The minority racist, aggressive, and colonialist regime will be defeated by the South African people. Apartheid will disappear. The Mozambican fatherland [...] of our sons and grandchildren and Comrade Mondlane will be preserved and defended by every Mozambican. [applause: passage omitted]. Because of the justness of our cause and international solidarity we are sure of victory [...] That is why we say with all force that the struggle continues. [Slogans.]