

New Year Message from Mozambique National Resistance Leader

"Voice of the Mozambique Resistance" in Portuguese 1700 gmt 2 January 1984

Text as broadcast of New Year message by Afonso Dhlakama, president of the Mozambique National Resistance

The new year 1984 is now beginning. It is a new year in the life of our country, our people and our movement. When we begin a new year, it is important that we think about what is in store for us and what we propose to carry out as a basic objective for the next 12 months. It is also important that we analyze what has been achieved during the year which has just ended. In retrospect, 1983 was a year full of victories for us in the military and political fields. By the end of 1982, we were operating in the northern part of the country and the scope of our operations had reached as far as Zambezia province.

In the south, we had reached the Limpopo River and Frelimo continued to show its inability to contain the relentless advance of our heroic combatants. By the end of 1983, the glorious forces of the Mozambique National Resistance [MNR] had already solidly established their bases in Nampula province. In Niassa province we were once again launching the popular armed struggle, and in the south our advance permitted us to reach within 40 km of the capital, Maputo. The lying Machel regime has said many things in its propaganda. They lied when they said that at the beginning of the year they had eliminated the MNR in Maputo and Gaza provinces. They lied when they said that the guerrilla war had been stopped in the Limpopo valley. All these were lies - pure and simple. Today we have already crossed the Incomati River and the progress southward is continuing. They have reportedly claimed to have destroyed the MNR bases and taken prisoners. However, Machel was unable to present anything to journalists. He was absolutely unable to present anything. The Maputo regime's ill-disciplined soldiers were only able - and very rarely at that - to capture empty camps which had been earlier abandoned. The prisoners whom Machel claimed to have captured were just innocent members of the public who had been detained by the regime's army or police.

There is only one truth. Our movement and the Mozambican people are advancing relentlessly and invincibly and the Frelimo troops understand this quite well. The hundreds and thousands of casualties which they sustained this year were proof of this. Their defeats increased in 1983 in such a manner that they forced Machel to do everything possible to save his regime. In despair he also tried to sell out Mozambique to those whom he had been constantly attacking and insulting just a short while ago. One campaign mounted by Frelimo against our peoples was the so-called "Operation Production". It brought misery and destroyed many Mozambican homes. This criminal operation is now being resisted actively by our forces. Hundreds of thousands of people taken at gunpoint by Frelimo and incarcerated in village communes have already been freed by our combatants. Release operations will continue until the last village commune - the last concentration camp and slave labour camp - ceases to exist.

During 1983 we also witnessed the barbaric actions committed by the Frelimo army. Water poisoning, abductions, rapes, the burning and looting of residences and harvests, mayhem, murders, bombardments of villages and massacres are the various crimes which are regularly being committed by the ill-disciplined soldiers against the defenceless and innocent populations. As part of its military plan, the enemy tried a campaign which he claimed would result in the disappearance of the MNR before December 1983. This

campaign was codenamed "Shack" (Portuguese: cabana). December arrived and once again Machel had failed. How could Frelimo halt the advance of all the people?

We countered Machel's communist violence with our revolutionary and popular resolve and force. "Operation Production" and the "Shack" campaign were crushed and destroyed. Thousands of Frelimo soldiers were killed, wounded or captured by our heroic combatants. Mercenaries from foreign armies who had come to save Machel also tasted defeat. They have come to know the same fate. Two important and extensive operations that we launched, "Red August" and "Black September", achieved resounding success. In 1983, hundreds of enemy positions or bases were attacked. Many dozens of them were destroyed and many others were actually captured. District capitals came under our control. Russian exploiters and those of other nationalities were taken prisoner. Economic targets vital to the survival of the regime were destroyed. The transport network throughout almost the entire country was disrupted and is under our control. Frelimo hardly dare move nor dare to venture from its positions.

In the political field, we carried out a reshuffle and a significant development of our infrastructure. Exiles, students and intellectual cadres at home and abroad joined us, thus greatly increasing the number of people sharing the same ideals of freedom. Important meetings of senior political and military cadres took place in March and November 1983 in Geneva, Switzerland. This consolidated our unity, opened new fields of operation and broadened our political scope.

Visits to Europe and throughout Africa have proved to be extremely fruitful. They brought us support from an increasing number of moderate, democratic and anti-communist countries and organizations. In 1984 we can now announce that our combatants will achieve new successes. The provinces of Niassa and Cabo Delgado will be transformed fully into operational areas. In the south, our guerrillas have so far only been putting pressure on the capital, Maputo. In 1984 we are not only going to put pressure on Maputo, we are going to encircle it. It will be besieged completely and isolated by our forces from the rest of the country. Today, we are already operating along the main national highway and we are barely a few dozen kilometres from the city. Within the next few months all the roads - all the routes which link the country to the capital - will be taken or controlled by our forces. The encirclement and isolation will be total. Maputo will not survive for long.

If Machel is not prepared to admit to the immense force of the people, our rockets and heavy weapons captured from his troops will hit barracks and his hideout in Maputo itself. This will then make him realize that he cannot stamp out hunger with weapons, nor by robbing, humiliating, exploiting, or oppressing a whole people who are politically aware and determined. In 1984 we will pay a great deal of attention to the training of our political economic, administrative and management cadres and others. Victory is drawing nearer and we have a whole country to build; 1984 will be the year of the final and decisive advance towards the people's victory and the year of Frelimo's defeat. I wish all 12,000,000 true Mozambicans a good year in 1984.

Note: Johannesburg radio (home service in English 0500 gmt 4 Jan 84) in reporting the Mozambique Resistance Movement spokesman's statement in Lisbon denying that the movement had been responsible for the bus ambush on Christmas Day (ME/7352/ii), added that the spokesman had said that " Renamo was at present engaged in its biggest offensive against the Government of President Machel. He claimed that the movement had captured the important towns of (?Moncari) and (?Fampusi) in Manica province on 27th and 28th December. He said that 28 Government troops were killed, and large quantities of arms were captured."

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