

# Mozambicans lose homes to fascists

ABOUT 1500 Mozambicans in Zumbu and Pangula areas of Tete Province are homeless; they are facing starvation following the recent joint operations carried out by South African and Rhodesian troops.

Mr. Samora Machel, the President of the Mozambican Liberation Front (Frelimo) disclosed this in Dar es Salaam yesterday. The areas attacked by the fascist troops — using helicopters, military planes and warships on the Zambezi River — lie near the Mozambican border with Zimbabwe and Zambia.

President Machel said that the fascist troops crossed the Zambezi River on July 1 by boat and helicopter and started a terror campaign — killing men, women and children and burning houses. The people had to flee to the mountains where they are facing starvation.

Mr. Machel said that these operations by the troops of the minority regimes were only one part of a grand design to entrench white settler rule in Mozambique. The intention of the racists was to construct a big port in that area on the Zambezi River and to make the river navigable, which it is not presently because of Frelimo operations in that area.

The aim, Mr. Machel said, was to destroy everything that makes it possible for the population to live in that area, forcing the population to leave the area. This, the racists hoped, would take away support for Frelimo guerrillas.

The President said that the Portuguese wanted that area for settlement by Portuguese nationals living in other countries in Western Europe, thus

creating an "African Brazil".

This would be like the "tropicalisation of Portugal", he said. He observed the Portuguese living in other European countries would find the proposition attractive as they are leading a miserable life there and are treated like refugees. In Mozambique, they were promised money, fertile land and other forms of assistance.

The "tropicalisation" programme would be of advantage to Portugal if she found she had no way except to grant independence to Mozambique because there would be a huge settler community that would still be loyal to Portugal — something similar to what Brazil is to Portugal today, Mr. Machel said.

The Portuguese and their South African and Rhodesian collaborators would like to defend the Cabora Bassa Dam the areas surrounding which have been a scene of Frelimo guerrilla operations.

There was a realisation on the part of South Africa and Rhodesia that Portugal alone was too weak in the face of the increasing strength of Frelimo and that the only way to deal with the freedom fighters was by concerted efforts of the racist troops.

Despite this, he said, Frelimo was prepared to meet the challenge and that adequate preparations had been made to face the new situation. The present joint action by the racists was a reflection of the strength of Frelimo in the vital Tete Province and the successful guerrilla operations in Manica e Sofala, the "stomach of Mozambique."

The involvement of all the oppressive forces in Southern Africa might create new contradictions in South Africa and Rhodesia. Progressive forces were likely to be more vocal against the racist regimes, he said. Other elements who had hitherto kept quiet on the state of affairs would now be interested because "it will, after all, be South African and Rhodesian troops dying in Mozambique", and the economic burden will be heavier than ever before.

On the recalling of General Kaulza d'Arriaga, the former commander of Portuguese forces in Mozambique, Mr. Machel said that his presence in Mozambique had been "very useful" to Frelimo and "we liked him very much". On his appointment in 1970 Kaulza, a Nato expert on counter-insurgency, promised to "wipe out" Frelimo in "just three months".

But three years later he had done nothing and, according to the President he had helped Frelimo forces to mature, to learn to fight against planes and helicopters, to kill more enemy soldiers than ever and to open a new front in Manica e Sofala.

In addition, Kaulza had created more contradictions in Mozambique because he had aligned himself with "Mozambican" Portuguese who wanted Mozambique to be "independent". Thus there was a contradiction between secessionists and those who prefer direct colonial links with Lisbon. "It is the case of two dogs fighting for the same bone", President Machel said, "and the only real enemy these

dogs have is Frelimo".

On what other liberation movements in Southern Africa might do to help the situation in Mozambique, the President said the first thing was unity. "Without unity you cannot do anything against the racists. If they unite their forces they will be more effective in their countries and this will help ease the situation in Mozambique".

● A statement issued in Dar es Salaam yesterday by the OAU Liberation Committee said that the "committee has been kept informed and has given assistance in order to meet the exigencies of the situation".

The statement added that the participation of South Africa and Rhodesia in support of Portugal "demonstrates the internationalisation of the conflict being sought by Portugal".

The Committee called upon the NATO powers to isolate the colonialists from the international community.

The OAU Liberation Committee Standing Committees which have been meeting in the capital for the past one week were expected to end their deliberations yesterday.

The Committees have, among other things been drafting rules and regulations as well as making a number of amendments concerning financial matters and appointments.

The meeting was also being attended by the OAU Assistant Secretary-General in charge of Political Affairs, Peter Onu. The deliberations of the Standing Committees will be presented to the OAU Liberation Committee meeting scheduled for October this year in Mogadishu, Somalia.