

Comment by the "Nationalist"

The *Nationalist* commented on December 15th that on November 26th, the Commander-in-Chief of the Portuguese Armed Forces in Mozambique had paid, what it was hoped would be, a secret visit to South Africa. But his presence in South Africa was detected, and it was established what he went to do and who he saw. During his visit, the *Nationalist* went on, General Ariaga had long meetings with South African "defence" and "intelligence" chiefs. They discussed the situation in Mozambique and in particular the "threat" posed by intensified activities by the freedom fighters of the Mozambican Liberation Fronts.

"For those in the front line of the battle for the total liberation of Southern Africa the discussions held during these meetings must be taken seriously. For the OAU whose second, if not principal, task is actively to accelerate the liberation of territories still under colonial rule, the consequences of this further collaboration between Portugal and South Africa are grave. For in the wake of these meetings, Malawi under Dr. Banda has come out with the declaration that South African arms should find their way into Malawi to combat FRELIMO. The Malawi Government has said that the activities of FRELIMO freedom fighters in Tete Province constitute a threat to Malawi to protect against which Malawi has had to ask for South African help.

"During the week ending December 4th, four plane loads of arms were flown into Malawi from South Africa. It was also reported that *Ferret* armoured cars were on their way to Malawi also from South Africa. Who knows what further aid is in the pipeline? In the light of allegations by Banda that the FRELIMO freedom fighters aim to strike at him, there is no doubt as to what use Malawi will put these arms. What these events underline for the OAU and the frontline nations to note is that Malawi has gone beyond the stage of merely betraying the secrets and designs of the OAU for the liberation of colonial territories. It has moved on to the stage of fighting physically on the side of the enemies of liberation, in particular Portugal and South Africa. Where hitherto it has betrayed Africa verbally, now it is going to combat liberation forces physically.

The suggestion that FRELIMO is now fighting Banda, the *Nationalist* concluded, is "utter nonsense". "Even the Portuguese admit only that freedom fighters are active in Tete province, site of the Cabora Bassa dam. They are blowing up supply routes to the dam. They are not arraigned against Malawi. The accusation is mischievous and malicious. But Africa and the frontline nations should not take South Africa and Portugal's latest success in turning Malawi into a mercenary state against the freedom struggle with equanimity. They should plan to confront this latest design in the enemy's strategy. For it is a real threat to FRELIMO and the independence of African nations.

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