

ANC Says Pretoria Planning To Invade Mozambique

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Excerpt from commentary (ME/8390/B/2):

Compatriots, once again the apartheid warmongers are flexing their muscles and are preparing to invade yet another neighbouring African state. This time, the target is the People's Republic of Mozambique. At the weekend, the government in Maputo issued a warning to the people there, informing them that the racists were planning to invade the country to overthrow the 11 year old popular government led by Frelimo and then (?impose) in power their puppets of the MNR.

Our vanguard liberation movement, the ANC, on the other had warned earlier on Thursday on the same [word indistinct]. In a statement signed by our Secretary General, Comrade Alfred Nzo, the ANC pointed out that the Pretoria regime, which has accused Mozambique of assisting ANC freedom fighters, was planning to install a puppet government in Maputo. It is clear that through these measures of aggression and destabilisation as (? was said) in the ANC statement, the Pretoria regime is trying to impose its own puppets in power. The ANC reaffirms that the claims about ANC bases in Mozambique are only a thinly veiled excuse by the racists to strike across the border. [Words [Words indistinct].]

The Pretoria regime last week announced a halt to its recruitment of Mozambican migrant workers and the repatriation of those already working in South Africa when their contracts expire. The enemy has estimated this will cost Mozambique about 50,000,000 US dollars. Last year, the country's foreign exchange earnings was [as heard] about 480,000,000 dollars. Of this sum, 57,500,000 dollars originated from South Africa alone, either as miners' remittances or as rail and port dues paid on South African exports.

The Mozambican news agency, AIM, pointed out in a commentary that these are not the first measures that the racists have [word indistinct] against the popular government in Maputo. Since independence 11 years ago, the number of Mozambicans working on the South African mines were [as heard] cut drastically. There were 118,000 Mozambican miners in 1975. By 1977 these figures had fallen to 41,000. In 1978 the racist regime (? effectively) suspended all the clauses in the 1928 agreement on migrant labour that had been signed with Portuguese colonialists. According to this clause, part of the miners [words indistinct] except Mozambique to be paid in gold at a fixed price. The Portuguese colonialists and the Mozambican government in the first two years of independence could reap windfall profits by later selling the gold at the free market price.

[Words indistinct] in the past 11 years, the racists implemented a deliberate onslaught on the port of Maputo. According to the Mozambican news agency, South African traffic to the port declined from 6,800,000 tons in 1974 to 900,000 in 1985. All these measures were designed to deprive the People's Republic of Mozambique of foreign exchange, thus making it more difficult for them to import [words indistinct]. The Botha-Malan destabilising regime hopes that [words indistinct] the government a final and (? bad) military defeat. [Sentence indistinct.]

On the other hand, the Mozambican government was not taken by surprise by the racist move. The news agency disclosed that the government has already drawn up a programme of measures to find ways of economising. The programme involves the rehabilitation of certain industries, increased supply of agricultural tools, guaranteed supply of basic foods for returning migrants and the supply of the necessary raw materials for other sectors of production, to keep essential consumer goods in the streets. On the other hand, the racists are introducing these tighter sanctions against Mozambique to [word indistinct] their supporters in the West to believe that sanctions against Pretoria will hurt neighbouring states more. . .