

His dream:

man, a

world

renewed

RANKED with 20th century leaders like Che Guevara, Amilcar Cabral, Eduardo Mondlane, Lenin, Augustino Neto, Mao Tse-Tung and General Giap of Vietnam, Machel emerged as one of the world's most outstanding thinkers and committed leaders.

In Africa, Machel represented the most militant traditions in the struggle against colonialism.

Machel, Mondlane, Neto and Cabral distinguished themselves from other African statesmen through their commitment to the complete liberation of their countries from colonialism and imperialism.

Together they led the battle against the most vicious form of exploitation in Africa.

Although the least advanced of the imperialist powers, Portugal was the most brutal in its exploitation.

In order to appropriate the wealth of Mozambican soil entire regions were set aside for certain crops like cotton, which people were forced to grow, while thousands died of hunger. The Portuguese had enslaved 11-million people in its three colonies.

Machel described Portuguese colonialism as "a form of colonial fascism seen today as one of the most degenerate and despised form of exploitation. Its terrorist practices and recourse to genocide horrified all mankind".

Faced with this ruthless but unique enemy, the Portuguese colonies formed the Conference of Nationalist Organisations of the Portuguese Colonies (CONCP) in 1961.

A common revolutionary theory which distinguished itself from most of colonial Africa emerged from the CONCP's analysis.

Machel said of the unity with Angola and Guinea-Bissau: "A logical corollary of the struggle is a close alliance with our brother peoples of Angola and Guinea-Bissau who have taken up arms to fight the same enemy.

"Victory requires the basic essential unity of the oppressed people," Machel said.

Machel's leadership blossomed through successive crises brought by ideological

tensions within Frelimo. He in fact welcomed the conflicts and intensified the tensions in order to resolve contradictions. In this way he created a deeper and more profound unity around a common set of revolutionary principles.

It is this quality that will be greatly missed by his followers.

Machel relentlessly fought the agents of colonialism both in and outside the ranks of Frelimo.

Figures like Lazaro Nkavandame and Uria Simango, whom Machel called the "new exploiters", were purged from the young Frelimo, early in its history.

These purges continue even today with the Mozambican people playing a central role.

He said of the fight: "It is an anti-colonial struggle aimed at destroying the colonial-Fascist state; an anti-imperialist struggle aimed at destroying the control by multinational companies and ending imperialism's use of our country as a launching pad for aggression against progressive African governments; finally it is a struggle aimed at destroying the system of exploitation of man by man and replacing it with a new social order at the

service of the labouring masses of our country."

Machel saw the role of foreign capital in Mozambique as being directly responsible for perpetuating Portuguese rule.

~~All wars are fought with support from the economic machine.~~ The imperialist circles that argue that their activities are of benefit to our people are revealing their own duplicity.

And when it came to tribalism Machel was unequivocal: "We are infiltrated. And there are many who are aware of this but do nothing about it. Colonialism thrives on tribalism.

"But our struggle killed tribalism. We killed the tribe to give birth to the nation."

He had great faith and trust in the people of Mozambique. "Our strength lies in the people. If our people do not participate (in government) our structures will be unable to formulate and define the tasks for the people. It is essential to involve the people because it was their participation that brought us to power," Machel said on independence day in June 1975.

For Machel, the struggle did not end with the "destruction of the physical presence of the colonial enemy".

"A new and more decisive conflict arises. The class struggle, at an international level, between our people and the colonialists must of necessity be followed at the internal level, by a class struggle against national forces with exploitative intentions.

"After independence, we must fight on for liberation: the fight to restore dignity, identity and Mozambican culture, a new society. And borrowing from the Cuban revolution; he spoke of the making of a New Man who would symbolise an end to exploitation of man by man.

For Machel the struggle was ultimate peace.

"The imperialist policy of destabilisation and aggression against states that refuse to submit to imperialism is a provocation to war. The Pretoria regime is a cause of war," Machel said.

In this context he saw both Swapo and the ANC as instruments of the peace movement in SA.

These are some of the features that gave him the stature that will ensure that he goes down in the history of our continent and mankind as a major figure.