

UDF Message of “Solidarity” and Mozambique

Maputo home service in Portuguese 1947 gmt 28 Oct 86

Text of recording of “solidarity in struggle” from the South African people read by United Democratic Front (UDF) President Albertina Sisulu, in English with superimposed Portuguese translation - date and place not given:

Comrades, we are here this afternoon to bow our heads to a great comrade whose death is not only a tragedy but is also a serious setback for our own struggle. It is a serious setback because we did not see Samora Machel as simply a foreign leader or the head of an African state. We saw him as one of our own commanders in the struggle against exploitation and racism. Over the decades, we saw Frelimo and Samora Machel fight great wars to achieve the independence of Mozambique. We saw a small group of guerrillas grow steadily to become the people's army and ultimately the people's government.

The heroic people of Mozambique, together with Machel, waged a struggle that inspired the whole subcontinent to seek freedom. We cannot mourn Samora Machel with tears. We cannot mourn him by simply expressing our grief. We can only mourn him by increasing the fight against the capitalists, by making sure that the ideals he lived and fought for become a permanent reality.

Comrades, we must always remember that it was Comrade Machel who made his country and his people available to freedom fighters in the subcontinent, so that Mozambique became the fountain of struggle for our region - a fountain in which [words indistinct].

It is for this reason that any attack against the independence of Mozambique will be an attack on our own struggle. We also want to say that the people of South Africa will fight to the bitter end to defend the independence of Mozambique. We the people of South Africa and the people of Mozambique will fight and destroy the criminals of the MNR and the criminals of the Boer regime.

Comrades, the people of Mozambique, the continent of Africa and the world would not have asked more of Samora Machel. He did everything to see that the oppressed could have a better life - an ideal we must forever fight for. Forward to freedom. Amandla [Zulu for power] !