

## **Editorial Notes:**

# **Eduardo Mondlane**

IT WAS WITH PROFOUND shock and indignation that we learnt of the untimely death of Dr. Eduardo Mondlane, the victim of a cowardly assassination plot directed from far away from Tanzania where he was living at the time. Eduardo Mondlane will always remain one of the heroes of African liberation. His name will always be linked closely with that of the Front for the Liberation of Mozambique, of which he was the first President and remained so to the end having been re-elected at the recent Conference of FRELIMO held in liberated Northern Mozambique and reported in our last issue.

Coming from a large and poor peasant family it was only through sheer grit, ability and sacrifice that the late Dr. Mondlane succeeded in achieving a brilliant academic career. After his schooling in Mozambique he studied in Lisbon, the University of Witwatersrand in Johannesburg, and finally in the United States where he was awarded his Doctorate of Philosophy.

Dr. Mondlane taught at American universities for several years and married there before deciding to return to Africa and devote his life to the emancipation of his country and his people.

It was under his leadership that FRELIMO undertook the stern and exacting path of armed struggle which has already resulted in the liberation of several provinces of Mozambique and their administration by the people's forces. It was also under his guidance that FRELIMO established strong and enduring bonds of comradeship and common struggle

with the liberation movement of the neighbouring Republic of South Africa — the African National Congress.

One of Eduardo Mondlane's last public appearances was at the historic Khartoum Conference, reported elsewhere in this issue, where he played a prominent part. From there he proceeded to Cairo where once again he played a leading role at the Conference in support of the fraternal Arab Peoples which took place from 25–28 January. With Mrs. Bandanaraika of Ceylon he was co-chairman of the important Commission on Human Rights.

Dr. Mondlane gave his last press interview during this Conference to *The Egyptian Gazette* (25 January 1969). In this interview he paid tribute to the influence upon him and his thinking of such men as Mandela and Sisulu during his period as a student in Johannesburg.

Eduardo Mondlane's death is a heavy blow, not only to the people of his own country but also to the entire national liberation movement. But his spirit lives on to inspire the brave patriots of Southern Africa to fight on still harder to win the goals for which he gave his life, to avenge his murder and bring to justice the imperialist assassins who were responsible, to build the free Mozambique for which he lived and died.