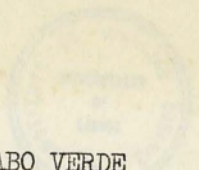


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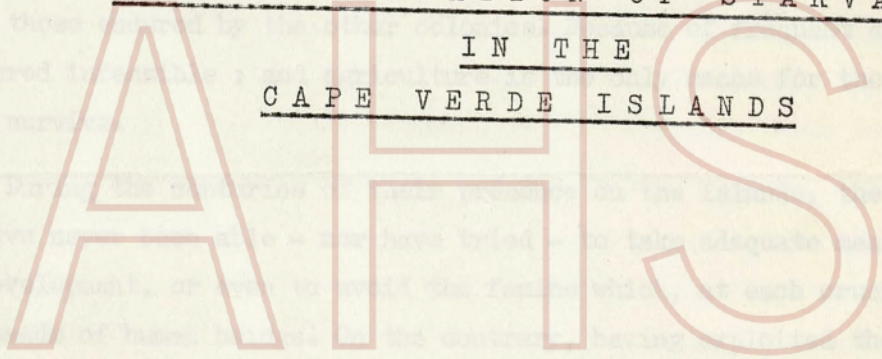
PARTIDO AFRICANO DA INDEPENDENCIA DA GUINE E CABO VERDE



The archipelago of Cape Verde is the oldest Portuguese colony in Africa. Its African peoples, which have been oppressed by Portuguese domination for centuries, the Cape Verdean people, today numbering 250,000, live in terrible misery and hunger. The Portuguese colonialists have tried to take adequate measures to promote agricultural development, or have tried to force the people to live, or to work, in order to have the means of subsistence. The Portuguese colonialists have tried to exploit the people and the country through their domination, and of the other they try to gather cheap labour for the plantations that they export under the label "emancipation" on the large plantations owned by the white settlers, and by the colonial companies of Angola and Mozambique.

The following figures are taken primarily from "Sociologia das Ilhas de Cabo Verde", a book printed by Lisbon in 1960, by the Institute for Overseas Research. The figures will convey an idea - even though a very inadequate one - of the situation in which the people of Cape Verde live:

ON THE SITUATION OF STARVATION  
IN THE  
CAPE VERDE ISLANDS



Communique released at Stockholm, April 14th, during a press conference given by the Secretary General of the PAIGC, Amilcar Cabral

- since 1763 ..... 58  
 - since 1960 ..... 21



For a better conception of the importance of these figures we must take into account the total population of the islands. The facts given are indicative of (A), the years of the great famines, and (B), the percentage of the total population that succumbed :

(A)	(B)
1773 - 78	22.2
1832 - 33	25.7
1847 - 50	27.5

The archipelago of Cape Verde is the oldest Portuguese colony in Africa. As the other African peoples, which have been oppressed by Portuguese domination for centuries, the Cape Verdian people, today numbering 250.000, live in terrible misery and ignorance. They, however, live under economic and social conditions that are still worse than those endured by the other colonies. Because of frequent droughts, agriculture is rendered infeasible : and agriculture is the only means for the people to live, or even to survive.

During the centuries of their presence on the islands, the Portuguese colonialists have never been able - nor have tried - to take adequate measures to promote economic development, or even to avoid the famine which, at each crucial period kills tens of thousands of human beings. On the contrary, having exploited the people and the country to a dreadful degree, the Portuguese colonialists now exploit the famine on one hand to strengthen their domination, and on the other they try to gather cheap labour in fact slave labour that they export under the label "contratados" to the large plantations (rocas) owned by the white settlers, and by the colonial companies of Angola and St. Thomé.

The following figures are taken primarily from "Seroantropologia das Ilhas de Cabo Verde", a book printed in Lisbon in 1960, by the Institute for Overseas Research. These figures will convey an idea - even though a very inadequate one - of the silent tragedy in which the people of Cape Verde live :

	<u>Years of famine</u>	<u>Total victims</u>
- since 1747 .....	58	more than 250.000
- since 1900 .....	21	135.000

.../...

For a better conception of the importance of these figures we must try to appreciate them in light of the total population of the islands. The facts given below are indicative of (A), the years of the great famines, and (B), the percentage of the total population that succumbed :

(A)	(B)
1773 - 76	50 %
1830 - 33	35 %
1863 - 66	40 %
1900 - 03	25 %
1920 - 22	20 %
1940 - 43	15 %
1946 - 48	35 %

During 223 years (1747 - 1970) the people of Cape Verde have endured more than half a century of famine. The number of victims of this scourge has been larger than the actual population of the islands. During the 20th century, these people have already suffered 21 years of famine. During each of these years of famine between 15 % and 35 % of the population has been lost.

During the last two centuries of Portuguese rule, the people of Cape Verde have had to face one year of total famine for every four years of existence. This tragedy contradicts the so-called civilizing and Christianizing effort of the Portuguese in Africa. The fact that at this very moment a new famine is ravaging the archipelago is irrefutable evidence of the permanence of the situation and of the contempt of the Portuguese colonialists for the African people of Cape Verde. In fact, after three years of intensive drought the population of Cape Verde, especially the poorest, are deprived of even the barest minimum nutrition necessary to survive.

The Portuguese authorities have officially recognized the crisis situation, but they do their utmost to conceal the facts of this famine from the knowledge of the world. The recent visit of the Portuguese Prime Minister, Mr. Marcelo Caetano, was primarily meant to soothe the suffering population, to whom he has promised "aid", in order to "lessen the effect of the crisis and insure that the famine does not claim too many victims".

The initiative constitutes an innovation, as it is the first time that a minister of the Portuguese government has come to the islands "because of the famine". The

singular nature of the visit reveals, however, the extent of the menace that threatens the people of Cape Verde, and demonstrates the exploitations of the drought situation by the Portuguese colonialists in order to block the path of the liberation movement, that under the direction of our party has shown considerable progress in the archipelago.

The Portuguese government is responsible for the very grave situation in which the people of Cape Verde live and die. The Portuguese government should, in the name of the most elementary human decency, refrain from exploiting the starvation of a people that Portugal has ruled and misused for more than five centuries. It is evident that the people of Cape Verde have had enough of visits and promises : they need food - and enough food - not to die. This need is the most urgent as the drought during the last three years has been very intensive, especially on the island of Santiago, the center of agricultural production for the archipelago, feeding almost half the population. It is therefore possible to predict that, in absence of effective measures taken against the famine, it could reduce the population by 30 - 50%.

The tragic events that the people have undergone during 58 years of famine are evidence enough that the Portuguese government is incapable of taking effective measures to alleviate the situation. One can also question the efficacy of the "aid" that Mr. Caetano has been compelled to offer the people of Cape Verde under pressure of political reality ; "aid", by the way, which has yet not been given. The doubt becomes certainty considering that Portugal, an underdeveloped and the most backward country in Europe, at present is waging three colonial wars in Africa, which drain about 50 % of its national budget. As everyone knows, the Portuguese government has been incapable of solving the problems of malnutrition, characteristic of Portugal itself. To all this we can add the fact that at this moment, the actual loss of a major part of the population of the islands, decimated by famine or exportation for the sake of forced labour in other colonies will serve the plans and inhuman interests of the Portuguese colonialists in their vain attempts to extend their domain in Africa, in contempt of moral principles and international rights.

The problem that the famine poses should from this time be considered on a human level and put before the conscience of the world. International opinion has a right to know what is happening on the islands. The nations, the national and international organizations and institutions which would wish to help the people of Cape Verde to combat the famine have the right to do so. The life (or the death) of the Africans on the islands cannot and should not continue at the mercy of the Portuguese colonialists.

This is why the African Party for the independence of Guinea and the Cape Verde Islands (PAIGC) conscious of its responsibilities and of the urgent need to save tens of thousands of human lives, especially those of children and young people who are particularly threatened by the famine :

- exposes, for the denunciation by world opinion, the tragic situation of the famine in Cape Verde Islands;
- makes an urgent appeal to developed nations, to national and international humanitarian organizations, to the Vatican, religious institutions of different creeds, as well as philanthropic individuals, that they would use their influence and every means possible in order to give the people of Cape Verde concrete aid that would contribute to the prevention of a new catastrophe;
- asks the UN, through the mediation of its Secretary General U Thant, to immediately take the measures that it considers necessary to evaluate the gravity of the situation and to aid the people of the islands in combatting the famine;
- requests the Portuguese government to abstain from all initiatives having to do with utilization of the famine as a political instrument, and as means of repressing the Liberation Movement. Also the PAIGC requests that the government of Portugal facilitates collaboration of both national and international groups that manifest their wish to give material aid to the people of Cape Verde against the famine;
- asserts the unshakeable determination to continue and develop the struggle for liberation on the islands of Cape Verde, to end the colonial domination, and with the collaboration of other peoples, including the people of Portugal, free the Africans of Cape Verde from misery, ignorance and famine.

FOR THE POLITICAL BUREAU OF P.A.I.G.C.

Stockholm April 14th 1971

Amilcar Cabral  
Secretary General