

COMITE REVOLUCIONARIO DE MOZAMBIQUE

"MOZAMBIQUE REVOLUTIONARY COMMITTEE"

(COREMO)



PRESS RELEASE AND COMMUNIQUE ISSUED BY MR. PAULO J. GURANE AFTER HIS RETURN FROM MOZAMBIQUE AND AFTER THE EMERGENCY MEETING OF THE PARTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE WHICH WAS HELD AT THE AFRICAN LIBERATION CENTRE, LUSAKA FROM 27th to 29th FEBRUARY, 1968.

On behalf of the Central Committee, the High Command and the heroic people of Mozambique, I wish to avail myself of this early opportunity of issuing this Press Release and communique in order to inform the peace loving peoples of the world of the tragic and absolutely inhuman situation that has been brought about by the centuries' old fascist repression and imperialist exploitation of the Mozambican people by the Portuguese colonialists and of the present situation in our Party.

Recently from the 6th January, to 15th February, 1968, in the humble discharge of my revolutionary duties I personally led a company of brave and dedicated revolutionary fighters and political activities into the interior of Mozambique. We moved among the masses of our people organising, mobilising, surprising and attacking isolated and naive fascist Portuguese troops which are strewn all over our guerrilla zones. In spite of untold and Nazi-like atrocities and cold-blooded murders of the civilian African people by the Portuguese fascist jaguars our people are progressively exhibiting greater determination and bravery in fighting back and as the heat of cruelty and repression increases in volume and viciousness they are obviously becoming purer and more revolutionary, correcting their earlier mistakes and learning new and vital lessons in dealing with ~~the~~ and fighting the oppressors. A new discipline has emerged and there can be no doubt that under the guidance and leadership of the Party they are now better prepared both mentally and physically for the great revolutionary tasks that lie ahead. On the other hand whilst deeply involved in the organisation and politicisation of the broad masses of the people our fighting forces relying more on scientific strategy and revolutionary tactics are harassing and strafing dictator Salazar's mercenary bandits. In the mountains and jungles of Mozambique life for the Portuguese (assassins) is progressively becoming untenable and a continuous sordid story of sorrow and misery. Yet in spite of the heroism and bravery which I witnessed everywhere in Mozambique our people are presently going through the worst type of persecution and extermination at the hands of the Portuguese fascists who employ the most inhuman methods of persecution and murder, reminiscent of Nazi Germany. In the areas of Zumbo, Zambue, Fingoe, Carinde, Chicoa and Tetã where we travelled and worked we found that the people are being moved from their traditional villages and lands and herded to newly built concentration camps along the roads and in places easily accessible to the Portuguese fascist troops.

In this ghettos they are heavily guarded and are compelled to do forced labour, repairing destroyed roads and bridges which are continually being blown up and disrupted by our revolutionary fighters. Not only do the Portuguese fascists troops unlawfully use for their own maintenance the hard-grown food of the people who are exposed to hunger and starvation, they also in bestial manner satisfy their staved sexual appetites by indulging in a continuous orgy of rape of old women, young women and even little girls. Normal family life has been rendered impossible and as a result of the immoral behaviour of these so-called standard-bearers of Western Christian civilisation the majority of the babies born in these camps are mulattos. These concentration camps are intended to be a device of preventing the African people of Mozambique from coming into contact with COREMO organisers and fighting forces. They are a loud testimony not only of the barbaric backwardness of the Portuguese under the great fascist dictator Salazar but also of the evil cruelty and base inhumanity that the systems of oppression and exploitation can bring out of man.

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As I have already mentioned the major purpose of the over 1,780 miles journey through the interior of Mozambique was the organisation and mobilisation of the people getting them ready and prepared for the long and sustained struggle of emancipation that lies before the nation. But our revolutionary forces had a number of military encounters with the Portuguese troops the three major ones of which took place in the districts of Zumbo, Carinde and Fingoe in which a minimum of 13 enemy soldiers were wiped out and many wounded. The telephone line which links Zumbo, Carinde, Chicoca, and Fete the Provincial capital was cut and two (2) military vehicles were blown up and completely destroyed while four (4) bridges were completely destroyed by our forces. In the area of Carinde the Portuguese bandits made a surprise attack on us in the forest where we had camped for the night of the 2nd February, 1968; at 11,45 pm but our forces fought back gallantly for nearly 15 minutes. However, due to the superiority of the enemy in man power and weapons our forces were forced to withdraw from the area after inflicting heavy casualties on the enemy forces. In this encounter two (2) of our ~~Portuguese~~ forces heroically laid down their lives for the noblest cause in the world - the liberation of mankind, four (4) were wounded and one (1) missing.

In the aforementioned encounters we captured a lot of war material from the enemy forces. There were eight (8) West German Mauser rifles of 1942 make, three (3) Italian Automatic Pistols, three (3) French MAT 49 and five (5) American carbines. The two (2) military vehicles destroyed were British troop carrier Bedfords. These materials of murder, of course, tell the story. There can be no doubt that they originate from the imperialist NATO BLOCK which fully supports fascist Portugal in her unjust war of genocide against the African people of Mozambique.

The broad masses of our people indict the Western capitalist imperialists primarily because of this double-faced policy in the conflict in Mozambique. While they attack the Portuguese murderers in the UNO Councils as oppressors in actual fact through substantial material and military aid they abet and encourage them in their indiscriminate murder of our people. The Western Imperialists should know that they cannot have their cake and eat it. If they continue to collaborate with Salazar's murderous bandits however indirectly or surreptitiously they fall in the category of our enemies. The people of Mozambique will not forget what amounts to a heartless treachery when the hour of victory comes. We solemnly warn the Western Imperialists to stop playing hypocritical talks. They cannot avoid even by shallow clever double-tongued talk the full moral responsibility for the senseless slaughter and extermination of the peoples of Mozambique Angola and the (so-called Portuguese) Guinea-Bissau. We unreservedly accuse America, Britain, West Germany, France, Belgium and their other Western allies, for their continuous support of Portugal in her war of genocide against our people. It is time Western imperialists knew that the profits they reap from the inhuman exploitation of both our human material resources are not more valuable than the countries human's lives they are assisting to destroy. Let them know that even against the present fearful odds, our people and dauntless revolutionaries are determined to liberate themselves and rid once for all our beloved country of the noxious vermin of Portuguese colonialism and imperialist exploitation.

COMMUNIQUE. The experience which I have acquired during my stay in Mozambique force me to call for an EMERGENCY MEETING of the Party Central Committee immediately after my return; to study and make a concrete analysis of the present situation in our fatherland. The Emergency Meeting of the Central Committee was held from 27th to 29th February 1968, at the African Liberation Centre - Lusaka.

The burning issue discussed by the Emergency Meeting was the question of armed struggle in accordance with the present prevailing situation against Portuguese colonialism. In this meeting, the general opinion of the members was that some changes, had to be made in the executive organ and structure of the Party in order to meet the present demands of the revolution. This resulted in the reshuffle of the Executive Committee. The following is the new list of the members of the Party Central Committee.

PAULO JOSE GUMANE	..... National President
	..... Vice President
ABSOLOM BAHULE	..... Secretary General
	..... Deputy Secretary General
MAHLTINE NGOME	..... Administrative secretary
GABRIEL MACHAVA	..... Treasurer
JULIUS SITHOLE	..... Dep. Defence Security
NARCISO MBULE	..... Information secretary
MATIAS TENDA	..... Deputy Information Sec.
J.G. JOE BANDE	..... Organizing Secretary
YANGAZI MARAPENDE	..... Dep. Organizing Sec.
FANUEL G. MALHUZA	..... Foreign Affairs Sec.
BERNARD FOTE	..... Labour & Social Services
MAZUNZO M. BOBO	..... Education & Culture

Some of the resolutions passed by the Emergency meeting of the Party central Committee are as follows: -

- a) The meeting strongly condemns the Portuguese war of genocide in Mozambique, Angola and Guinea-Bissau.
- b) This Emergency meeting declares unequivocally, the support of our Party for the armed struggle being carried out by the peoples of Angola, Guinea-Bissau, Zimbabwe, Azania, and South West Africa.
- c) This meeting fully supports the unflinching stand of the Vietnamese National Liberation Front in their struggle against United States imperialism and the South Vietnam puppet regime.
- d) We firmly pledge our Party's support for the struggle of the Arab peoples for their liberation.

Signed : PAULO JOSE GUMANE
National President.

for the Party Central Committee.

