

## MOZAMBICANS PUT DOWN RIGHT WING VIOLENCE IN MAPUTO --DECEMBER 1975

Last December an armed uprising took place in Maputu (formerly Lourenco Marques) Mozambique. While order was quickly restored by the FRELIMO government, at least a dozen people were killed and many more were injured.

The violent outbreak was not an attempted coup against the FRELIMO government as reported in the Western press, but was primarily the work of new FRELIMO recruits and others in the Party who had not internalized the political perspective of FRELIMO. Many of the participants in this abortive uprising had not experienced the years of intensive political training and discipline that FRELIMO members actively engaged in the national independence struggle had received.

Behaviors by these new FRELIMO members such as abuse of civilians, drunkenness, disregard for authority, drug abuse, etc., which were beginning to give FRELIMO a bad name among the people, led Party cadre and soldiers of the People's Forces to take action against them. Shortly before the December outbreak, many of these same people who were to participate in that outbreak were individually reprimanded or expelled from the Party for corrupt behaviors deemed potentially threatening to the revolution itself. As a result the December violence must be seen as a last ditch bid for power by counter revolutionary elements who had already been politically discredited as individuals.

Investigations by FRELIMO after the incident have also made clear that the source of the trouble was not solely internal. Outside counter revolutionary forces encouraged this attack on the revolutionary aspirations of the Mozambican people.