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PAFMECSA CONFERENCE held in Leopoldville (Republic of the Congo) 28 December 1962

Speech by Uria T. SIMANGO
Vice President of
Frente da Libertacao de Moçambique
(PRELIMO)

Mr. Chairman,
Excellencies
Gentlemen,

I am very happy Mr. Chairman because today I am in the country I have heard and read much about. I bring greetings from the Central Executive Committee of PRELIMO to all delegates in this conference and to the Government and people of the Congo Republic. I want to thank PAFMECSA leaders and the Government and people of the Congo Republic for this great occasion to meet in this country, to discuss common problems. Once more I render my sincere thanks to the Government and its people for the hospitality accorded to us during our stay in this country.

MOCAMBIQUE

Many delegates in this conference may be surprised to hear that I represent PRELIMO, Moçambique Nationalist Organisation. The same delegates may want to know where is MANU and UDENAMO. We freedom fighters of Mozambique analysed the grave situation confronting our country and disunity among Moçambique Africans provoked by the Portuguese colonialists. The two major parties, Mozambique African National Union "MANU" and Uniao Democratica Nacional de Moçambique "UDENAMO" and other minor political parties decided to join patriotic forces by forming a United Front and that is how PRELIMO, of which I am the Vice-President and I represent today, came into being.

We want to thank PAFMECSA, TAMU, the Government of Tanganyika and other African Independent States which insistently advised us to come together - to form a United Front - to fight the common enemy, the Portuguese. Although this has been successful we shall not rest until we have become free.

The condition of our people at home is deteriorating. The gun-point government of fascist Salazar is amassing arms daily. Military bases are being built throughout the country, even along the boundaries. Troops are pouring in from Portugal every month now amounting to about forty thousand soldiers. They come with orders to rape African women and girls in order to finish the African race systematically by producing many coloureds, as a

result, several girls and women have died after being repeatedly raped by the Salazar thugs. A good number of them are raped in the presence of their parents, brothers or husbands. Hundreds of innocent people are being arrested and detained indefinitely as political suspects and others killed outside and inside prisons. These inhuman acts are done by one of civilising western powers - Portugal, the so-called religious country.

The people of Moçambique want to be free and independent. Mr. Chairman and honourable Delegates, I believe you understand our position. We of the Portuguese colonies have suffered the longest and most oppressive foreign domination that ever existed on earth. In Moçambique all whites : children, women and men are armed to the teeth. Salazar is determined to annihilate the African race. Today whoever shoots a servant or any other African is considered as a hero by the government. Salazar is building a stony castle of antagonism or hostility, between the African and his own people. We are being denied the universal human right, even adopted by the United Nations. Salazar has several times declared that his overseas territories are part and parcel of Portugal. They are overseas provinces. He has often uttered that there is no question of granting independence to these territories. Mr. Chairman, it is not only stupidity what the Emperor Salazar says, but also madness insanity and unconsciousness. He says the wind of change is blowing in British territories does not blow in his. He considers the granting of independence to territories a weakness of administering colonial power.

A few days ago we were informed that Portugal, advised by the USA accepted the sending of UN Commission to her colonies. It is said each should be of one man of well experienced men, most likely from the NATO members. A few observations are essential in order to understand about the sending of these commissions.

- a) A one member commission is unable to do its work efficiently, to be able to report back the truth.
- b) The commission should be composed of not less than three people - all from African independent states and not colonial and imperial countries.
- c) They should have grand latitude to visit anywhere and speak to anybody who wishes to give evidence.

We hail the USA attitude in this respect. We are not suspicious but hope that this is a good gesture of Kennedy Government, to put into practice its African policy. However, we wish to say openly what is going to happen when these commissions come down to Africa. From our own experience many other commissions did not serve any purpose but aggravated the situation. Dr. Chiozero of S. Rhodesia was sent to Moçambique last year. He was daily under guard from sunrise to sunset. A few times he succeeded to escape the guard at night from his hotel, and spoke with a few Africans. Were he a white man he would totally fail to collect a single information. When he reported his findings to the United Nations, Portugal refuted. The Portuguese were wondering how he had collected such information. It is now a year since the International Labour Organisation sent a commission to Moçambique. Wherever it was taken to there was an organised well dressed group of labourers with proper instructions of what and how they should answer questions. It

reported back that forced labour had been abolished, a thing which is existing till the present day.

Mr. Chairman, the sagacity, astuteness and manoeuvres of the Portuguese imperialists are endless. For these commissions to be successful in their findings we suggest that they be accompanied by local nationalist leaders and assurance be given to the people by the United Nations that they would not be in trouble for giving evidence after the commissions are gone.

The Portuguese army and settlers are provoking the African population, owners of the country. They are ready to unleash a genocidal war. FRELIMO, aware of this, has taken the necessary steps to ensure that every Moçambican child, woman or man is armed. We are mobilising our people in the real sense. Mr. Chairman and honourable delegates, aware of wickedness and plans of the Portuguese to perpetrate the minority, oppressive and supremacist rule in Moçambique, our congress had this to say, i quote }The Moçambique people, inspired by sentiments for liberty, dignity and justice have decided to fight firmly and wherever necessary with the sacrifice of our lives for the achievement of our National Independence". We are not asking for reforms. We are not begging anybody. Self-determination is our birthright in our country. This does not come from them but from GOD. Under what circumstances we shall be free from the Portuguese colonialism and imperialism by all means. The present attitude of the Portuguese is leading to disaster.

ANGOLA

Our brothers in Angola were forced by circumstances to defend themselves. They took up to arms. They were waging a wide scale war in order to liberate their country and get rid of the Portuguese colonialism and imperialism. This does not mean that our brothers and sisters in Angola did not want to achieve independence through peaceful means. The Portuguese several times declared that they would not give up overseas colonies but they would fight until the last drop of blood. The hope of achieving independence by means of negotiation does not exist. Guinea is also fighting for national independence.

We give our full moral and material support to all nationalist organisations in Angola, Guinea, Cabo Verde and S. Tome e Principe and pledge our solidarity in the struggle. We salute all freedom fighters who have already fallen and those still on the field.

Mr. Chairman, Excellencies, and honourable delegates, FRELIMO condemns the atrocities, massacres and war of extermination waged by the Portuguese in Angola. We hope this conference will send a strong protest to the United Nations and Portugal. We also suggest that a decision be taken by this conference, of what should be done to free Angola in 1963 without fail.

We were pleased while in Dar-es-Salaam to hear that negotiations were going on of forming a United Front amongst Angolan Nationalist Organisations. We request this conference to encourage this move if possible a committee of a few people be formed to meet and discuss with leaders of these organisations. We consider this to be of primary importance for the acceleration of their National Independence.

FRELIMO acknowledges and thanks the freedom fighters of Angola for their great achievement in the struggle. We are convinced that victory is theirs in the shortest possible time. We say go on - fight - fight - fight, the world will bless you.

NORTHERN RHODESIA - NYASALAND - SOUTHERN RHODESIA

We congratulate UNIP and ANC of Zambia and the honourables Mr. Kaunda, Minister of Local Government and Social, and Mr. Nkumhula, Minister of Education, for the election results and successful coalition government of the sons of Zambia. We consider this a step forward towards complete dismantling of the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland imposed against the will of the majority.

We are pleased by the announcement that Nyasaland now has the right to secede from the Federation. This is a victory for Dr. Banda and Malawi Congress Party. This is another blow to the Federation.

It was with much joy we learnt that Sir Edgar Whitehead had lost elections. With the winning of the United Rhodesia Front the position of the whites has been cleared. We believe now that Africans who need to support the United Federal Party, perhaps without clear understanding, will have their way open to support their nationalist political organisations. We hail Mr. Field's statement that Mr. Joshua Nkomo will be freed after the New Year. We believe the settlers' attitude in Zimbabwe has followed Salazar and Verwoerdway. The situation is more difficult than it was. The apartheid and white supremacy policies are to be in full swing with the present racist government. We fully support the struggle and we pledge our complete solidarity with our brothers of Zimbabwe.

We hope that this conference will find a way to speed up the independence of Zimbabwe. We condemn the banning of ZAPU and restriction measures against Mr. Nkomo its leader and imprisonment of many other leaders. We suggest that this conference send an appeal to the British Government and newly formed Government of S. Rhodesia for the release of all African Nationalist leaders including those arrested in 1959 now under restrictions and that they all be granted unconditional political freedom.

SOUTH WEST AFRICA - SOUTH AFRICA REPUBLIC

We condemn the racist South Africa Government for messing up the things in South West Africa and in its own home affairs. We are of the opinion that the United Nations should take a decisive measure against the South Africa Government - if necessary South West Africa should be plucked from its hands and be granted its independence immediately.

We pledge and will support to South Africa nationalist organisations fighting for their freedom and independence.

KENYA

In Kenya the British are looking for cracks in African Nationalist organisations in order to enter through them and divide the people so as to delay their UHURU. We appeal to all leaders to see to it that these cracks are invisible. We admire their leadership and we hope that 1963 will be their UHURU year.

THE CONGO REPUBLIC

We would be very insincere to refrain from saying that what we have in mind. We understand very little about the situation in this country. We only know there have been many attempts to bring together the two governments: the Central and the Katangese Government. The two Governments arranged several meetings about the issue. We believe they were well intended but it has not been very easy to agree on all items, till today they are separated. Humanly speaking it is impossible to come to agreement on all items about any issue but it is possible to make a compromise; because of this word COMPROMISE we appeal to the two governments and its peoples to make a compromise.

All independent African States, especially the most recent ones have very high internal problems to solve like

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| a) Poverty | d) Neo-colonialism |
| b) Disease | c) etc. etc. |
| c) Ignorance | |

GENERAL APPEALS

We appeal to all African Nationalist Organisations to maintain the unity they have within and out of their camps and preserve it for ever.

We praise the attitudes of Honourables Mr. Kaunda and Mr. Nkumbula and their parties by forming a coalition government, a thing very difficult to obtain.

We praise PAFMECSA for its great achievements in the march of independence attainments in the creating of political party united fronts between organisations and in the role of united governments and peoples by peaceful means.

We appeal to all nationalist organisations in Portuguese colonies to realize that their enemy is one and that they should form United fronts to fight the Portuguese colonialism and imperialism in their countries.

We once more appeal to the two governments of the Congo and their peoples to realize that they have common problems and that they can easily be solved when they are one nation, therefore a common compromise should be reached.

We appeal to all African Independent States to serve as examples of Unity in Africa.

LONG LIVE PAFMECSA LONG LIVE UHURU IN AFRICA LONG LIVE UNITY IN AFRICA

Uria Timotio Simango (Deputy National President)
Frente da Libertação de Moçambique (FRELIMO)
Moçambique Liberation Front
P;O; Box 15274 Dar es Salaam, Republic of Tanganyika