



May 1984

WHAT OF THE NKOMATI ACCORD?

The Accord signed by Mozambique and the Botha Government at Nkomati has been received with mixed reaction. The imperialists, the local ruling class and big capitalists and their spokesmen, the liberals, have hailed the Accord as a major victory for peace and stability in Southern Africa. Sections of the Liberatory Movement have reacted with gloom and disappointment. Some have even accused Mozambique of having betrayed the freedom fighting people of South Africa.

What are the facts?

Post independent Mozambique joined the Soviet Bloc after turning its back to its principal ally, China. The newly acquired ally, the Soviet Union, applied pressure on the Mozambican Government to provide a base for the ANC to the exclusion of all other liberatory organisations from South Africa.

Apart from pleasing the Soviet Union, Mozambique was executing her internationalist duty in providing a base for the ANC. She had done the same for ZANU (PF). No doubt, Mozambique was provided full protection and support by the Soviet Union and the OAU.

However/.....

However, the South African Government turned out to be a far more formidable foe than the Smith regime. She hit back hard. There were direct military strikes; there was the terrible economic squeeze and there was the M.N.R., a counter revolutionary organisation created and supported by South Africa. The M.N.R. has been wreaking havoc in Mozambique by means of a campaign of systematic sabotage and terror. As if all that was not enough, there was the prolonged drought in large areas and more recently the floods.

Clearly Mozambique was not getting the promised or expected economic and military support from her "socialist allies." President Machel was therefore compelled to scour the capitals of Western Imperialism for economic aid. He returned virtually empty handed. He was told in no uncertain terms that before the question of aid can be raised there had to be stability in Southern Africa. Stability in Southern Africa meant making peace with the Botha Govt. and peace with the Botha Govt. meant denying the ANC a base in Mozambique. In return for this the Botha Govt. undertook to put the M.N.R. under leash and muzzle and to relax the economic squeeze. The Imperialists would then pour in money for development and investment.

It is therefore clear to all those who want to see, that Mozambique went to Nkomati under unbearable pressure. Nkomati meant peace for a war-ravaged country, it meant food for the starving and development and reconstruction for an impoverished country. Most of all Nkomati meant a breathing space to salvage the gains of the Mozambican revolution.

We are not blind to the dangers of neo-colonialism inherent in the situation. However, survival must take precedence. Only time will tell what Frelimo makes of the breathing space. In the meantime we urge those in the liberatory movement who are alarmed at the developments surrounding Nkomati to suspend passing of judgment.

Mozambique/.....

Mozambique is the victim of a callous manouevre engineered by the Imperialists.

REMOVALS

The Botha Government professes to "change the face of South Africa" with its new constitutional dispensation. However, the oppressed people in South Africa are aware that the contrary is true, namely, that the present regime, in the guise of bringing about change is in fact entrenching oppression and apartheid.

It is estimated that since 1960 over 3,5 million of all sections of the oppressed people were affected by removals. Of this, 2,7 million were Africans. The Indian and Coloured removals were done in terms of the Group Areas Act. Nearly 34 000 Coloureds were bundled out of the famous District Six Area and were dumped in the desolate Mitchell plains and Atlantis areas. The Indians in Durban were "settled" in the Phoenix and Chatsworth areas.

Insofar as the African section of the population is concerned, removals were carried out primarily to:-

- (i) control the oppressed;
- (ii) supply cheap labour for the mines, industries and farms;
- (iii) frustrate the political aspirations of the oppressed;
- (iv) consolidate the Bantustans;
- (v) remove the so-called Black spots and limit the number of Africans living on White owned farms;
- (vi) tighten influx control so that the Africans cannot move freely to urban areas;
- (vii) limit the number of Africans in urban areas and to give permanent residence to a handful of Africans so as to create a middle class amongst them.

In/.....

In the early 1960's, thousands of people were forcibly removed by the Government. The adverse publicity which these forced removals attracted, forced the state to adopt more subtle methods so that the people will be moved "voluntarily". Because of the acute shortage of homes in the urban areas for Africans, many of them were forced into the Bantustans. Furthermore, there is always the ever present threat of being "endorsed out" from an urban area. Farm labourers found their living and working conditions on White farms so oppressive, that they left of their "own choice" to one or other Bantustan.

Some of the tricks employed by the oppressors to force the people to leave a particular area was to let conditions and services deteriorate and to increase the rents, and to offer cheaper accommodation in nearby Bantustans. For example, in 1982 in a township in Kimberley the rent was increased to such an extent that the people were forced to go to a nearby township in Bophuthatswana.

The massive removal and re-settlement of the oppressed peoples makes any talk of change in South Africa a mockery.

DO YOU KNOW THAT:

- (i) Pat Poovalingam (counterfeit Solidarity) addressed the youth wing of the Nationalist Party but has not found the courage to talk to the youth of the oppressed.

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