

WE SALUTE

SAMORA MACHEL!

On 28th October, 1986, Africa buried one of its most illustrious sons, Samora Machel. He was the President of the first proclaimed workers and peasants state in Africa.

Samora Machel's death in an air crash in South Africa was the culmination of a long series of trials and tribulations this man underwent as leader of Mozambique. From its very birth the new Mozambique was a target for destruction by powerful and sinister forces. Though a mere fledgling state, Mozambique under Machel posed a grave threat to its neighbour, White South Africa and the imperialists. Mozambique set out to build a society in which the wealth produced there would be for the benefit of all its citizens; where want, ignorance and violence would be eradicated and where the colour of a person mattered not a jot.

At all costs that society had to be killed at birth. For were it to succeed, the whole region of Southern Africa would look to that society as an example and model to improve on.

The international machinery of imperialism set to work. South Africa was given the task of destabilizing and of supporting its running dog — Renamo. The imperialists saw to it that Mozambique was given no real economic aid. As if these were not problems enough, there was the crippling and prolonged drought which caused the present famine.

It was to extricate his country from the stranglehold of these forces that Samora Machel signed the Nkomati Accord. A humiliating experience for a proud freedom fighter. But then Machel never placed his personal consideration before the urgent needs of his country. The fact that South Africa double-crossed Mozambique is not Machel's fault. He tried!

Samora Machel was a true internationalist. In fulfilling his duty as such, he provided a base for ZANU(PF) and the A.N.C. For this Mozambique paid a fearful price by way of devastating raids from the Smith and Botha regimes.

Samora Machel was a brave fighter and a fearless man. He had a vision of a new and just society. That he took on this enormous task which

would have daunted any lesser man, is another aspect of his courage. If he has failed and Mozambique today lies in ruins and people are dying from famine, we must lay the blame squarely on the lap of imperialism and its bully-boy, South Africa. They had the most to lose if Mozambique succeeded.

And what of the international community which passes stirring resolutions about the struggle against imperialism and solidarity and support for sister socialist countries? Where are they in the hour of Mozambique's need? Those who are the most powerful and the richest, have done little to assist. It is smaller countries which have little to give but which give the most. Zimbabwe, herself the next most vulnerable, has sent men and equipment to Mozambique's aid, showing that it is not enough to pay lip-service to ideals, but that it is absolutely necessary that words must be accompanied by deeds. For that the M.N.R. has declared war on Zimbabwe. We know that it is S.A. talking through the M.N.R. Hopefully, Zimbabwe will not be thrown to the wolves the way Mozambique was.

Many heads of state, or their representatives flocked to Maputo to pay their last respects to Samora Machel. Many of them were less interested in him and the plight of his beleaguered country in his lifetime. They turned away when he needed them most, and aided and abetted his enemies. They were the knowing and willing agents of imperialism. On their shoulders lies equal blame for the tragedy of Mozambique.

Finally, we salute Samora Machel, brave warrior in defence of the poor, the oppressed, and the exploited. His legacy and his memory will live on in the hearts of freedom lovers the world over. They will blot out the sad memory of his apparent failure, and will take up his ideal of a new society and will make it come true. The slogan, that Mozambique made famous — "Aluta continua" — The struggle continues — will once again take on meaning.

LONG LIVE THE STRUGGLE OF THE OPPRESSED!

LONG LIVE THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF MOZAMBIQUE ! !