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1. STATEMENT BY THE STANDING POLITICAL COMMITTEE OF THE
FRELIMO PARTY ON THE AGREEMENT SIGNED AT THE LONDON
CONFERENCE ON ZIMBABWE

A statement by the Standing Political Committee of the FRELIMO Party, issued on December 21, hails the agreement signed at the London conference on Zimbabwe as a victory of the Zimbabwean people and of the Patriotic Front. This is the full text of the statement:

In the name of the FRELIMO Party, the Government and the Mozambican people, the Standing Political Committee of the Central Committee of the FRELIMO Party warmly salutes the people of Zimbabwe and their vanguard, the Patriotic Front, for the historic victory represented by the signing at the London constitutional conference of the agreement that establishes the transition to the total and complete independence of Zimbabwe.

This agreement is the victorious result of the long people's resistance to colonialism, of the clandestine political struggle, of the struggle for national liberation against the fascist regime, a dictatorship of the settlers.

It is a victory of the Patriotic Front, vanguard of the Zimbabwe people, which led the struggle of all patriots who fought against foreign domination and colonial oppression.

It is a victory for the African continent, for all progressive forces in the world who contributed to the collapse of one of the last bastions of racism and colonialism.

The agreement signed in London, fruit of the glorious struggle of the Zimbabwean people, consecrates, at the diplomatic level, the irreversible conquests achieved by the Patriotic Front in the political and military spheres and reflects the defeat of the regime which, since 1965, had usurped the administration of the British colony.

The agreement buries one of the most barbarous and heinous regimes in the history of Africa, a system condemned by the entire international community, which could only survive through systematic massacres and assassinations.

The Mozambican people celebrate, as theirs, the victory of their brother Zimbabwean people. The achievement of Zimbabwean independence strengthens the independence of the People's Republic of Mozambique itself, as well as its own revolutionary achievements.

Since the time of the armed struggle for national liberation, the Mozambican people made their territory a base for the Zimbabwe liberation struggle. After independence, despite great difficulties stemming from a ruinous colonial past, the People's Republic of Mozambique did not hesitate to apply the sanctions decreed by the international community against Southern Rhodesia. This act finally made the Security Council decision effective.

Raising high the banner of militant internationalism, our people made the struggle for the freedom of Zimbabwe their own. Recognizing clearly that our country could not be completely free while racist and colonial oppression continued on its borders, the Mozambican people accepted that their blood would have to mix with that of the Zimbabwean patriots in their common struggle against the racist regime.

The illegal Salisbury regime realised that the intensification of the armed struggle and the application of internationally mandated sanctions by the People's Republic of Mozambique marked the beginning of their agony.

Because of this, the illegal regime amassed financial and technical resources from the most fascist and reactionary sources, modernised its war machine, and recruited mercenaries from all over the world in order to launch continuous military aggressions against our country.

It organized and fomented acts aimed at creating instability and subverting our revolutionary process in an offensive of hatred and intimidation unparalleled in the history of the struggle against colonialism in Africa.

The terrorist regime massacred defenceless civilians, destroyed their property, mined roads, planted explosive devices, and tried to spread terror and panic.

The murderous assassins of the British colony's illegal regime bombed and destroyed roads, bridges, railway lines, telecommunications systems, production centres, shops, equipment, schools and hospitals, all strategically important to our economy.

Rhodesian military aggression inflicted not only vast physical destruction, but also caused enormous material losses to the economy of our young republic.

Our assistance to the liberation struggle in Zimbabwe cost us heavily in blood and sacrifice.

Nevertheless, our resolve remained strong and unshaken. In confrontations with the enemy we were able to improve our defence capacity and vigilance and to increasingly punish the invaders.

In the struggle against the Rhodesian criminals we were able to transform our vulnerability into military strength, transform the sabotage and destruction into economic development, transform the divisionist and subversive offensive into national unity and a greater sense of patriotism.

The heroism of our people and the reorganisation of the FPLM were important forms of assistance to the intensifying struggle of the Zimbabwean patriots. The increasingly heavy defeats inflicted upon the racist aggressors demonstrated that the internationalist support of our country could not be broken. The battles of Mapai and Chimoio, which cost many enemy losses and forced them to flee in disarray, were decisive.

The Standing Political Committee salutes the Mozambican people for the exemplary way they accepted all the sacrifices and fulfilled their internationalist obligations towards the Zimbabwe struggle.

The Standing Political Committee salutes especially the Provinces of Gaza, Manica, Tete and Sofala, which provided direct support to the Zimbabwe struggle in the same way that the liberated zones supported the weight of our people's war for independence.

The Standing Political Committee salutes all the Defence and Security Forces for the self-denial, energy and courage that have always characterised their reply to Rhodesian military aggression and subversive actions.

In particular, the Standing Political Committee salutes the glorious Mozambique People's Liberation Forces for the heroic and combative way they routed the rebel regime's murderous incursions. The example of those who fell defending our sovereignty is a stimulus to our determination to intensify the fight against underdevelopment and for the establishment of a free society, without exploitation. The blood of those who fell underlines the indestructible friendship that will always unite the peoples of Zimbabwe and of the People's Republic of Mozambique.

The Standing Political Committee salutes the Front Line States which, in a united and determined way, recognised the need for sacrifice in support of the fight for Zimbabwe's independence. Their united action, and their unequivocal reply to imperialism's attempts to create division, consolidated the Front Line States as a firm base for the Patriotic Front's political, military and diplomatic struggle.

The Standing Political Committee expresses the deep emotion felt by the FRELIMO Party, the Government and the Mozambican people at this historic moment and the pride with which they look on the approaching birth of a new independent and sovereign state.

The establishment of a democratic, peaceful, stable and united Zimbabwe is decisive for the stability of the region and in strengthening the peoples in their fight for economic and social progress in this zone.

The people's Republic of Mozambique and the Mozambican people will continue side by side with Zimbabwe and its people in the period of the struggle for national reconstruction now beginning, taking advantage of the existing favourable geographic conditions, developing communication links and intensifying economic relations. The historic and political ties that closely unite the two peoples, will be consolidated in the common struggle against underdevelopment.

The end of the Zimbabwe armed liberation struggle does not mean however an end to enemy action.

The front of freedom is growing and this makes the peoples' enemy desperate. In the face of each defeat, the enemy will try to intensify subversion in new forms.

The sense of vigilance developed by our people in the confrontation with the rebel and illegal Salisbury regime, must not slacken.

The Standing Political Committee exhorts the Mozambican people to intensify their revolutionary vigilance, to increase their commitment to the tasks of national reconstruction and to raise their level of organisation in order to further the development of peace, progress and freedom in the region and to defend and consolidate the conquests of the revolution.

Africa will win

A. LUTA CONTINUA.