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## Threat to Smith



About 250 of Mozambique's military leaders pledged at a conference in Lourenco Marques last week to help "liberate" Ian Smith's Rhodesia. "As in the past the People's Forces of Liberation of Mozambique (FPLM) are ready to accept the sacrifices that their duty of solidarity entails," they said in an 8000-word communique. Observers interpret this as a threat of direct intervention in the Rhodesian political and military impasse, particularly as the military leaders hold effective power in Mozambique and have already proved they are prepared to use it.

Rhodesia received special attention at the conference although an all-embracing pledge of "solidary and mutual help" was given to the "progressive and revolutionary forces of the whole world". General support was voiced for the "struggle of the peoples of the Comoro Islands, South West Africa, South Africa and for the just struggle of the Arabs against Zionist aggression".

The communique released at the end of the conference announced that "hundreds of thousands of young men and women are to be integrated and given definite tasks in the FPLM within the framework of the newly-introduced 24-month compulsory military service".

But what is described earlier in the communique as "the full mobilisation and organisation of the masses" does not stop at conscription. It gains a new dimension with the creation of a "people's militia" and also with the politico-military training of all citizens not liable to be called up.

The communique also announced that two new branches of the FPLM - the Navy and the Air Force - are to be created with top priority being given to the Navy. Special emphasis was put on women's detachments which "must be expanded so that progressively all Mozambican young women are put through the ranks".

The conference gave full support to the principle that the FPLM is responsible solely to Frelimo, with its supreme commander the Frelimo President Samora Machel - a motion received with thunderous applause by the delegates.

In a shrewd switch from Frelimo's cherished dogma that soldiers should serve for love and not money, the "cadres" are to receive modest pay. In what seems a contradiction to the conference's unanimous decision that there will be no ranks in the FPLM, the "cadres" will be graded into superior, middle and inferior echelons with different rates of pay. It is understood from the communique that eventually all men and women serving in the FPLM will receive some sort of pay.

In a consolidation of Frelimo's political hold over the FPLM, party committees are to be set up in all units and at all levels of the military establishment. It was said at the conference that a relaxation of the political vigilance was responsible for "the deviations and failures" suffered during the transition period to independence. To avoid further setbacks, the conference approved a wide purge of "cadres unworthy of wearing our uniform and of serving under the FPLM flag".

It was openly acknowledged during the conference that "the direct enemy are the national reactionary forces that are doing their utmost to deflect and sabotage the Revolution". They were warned: "Our arms are trained on the enemies of the Revolution and we are determined to use them whenever necessary."

After having laid the foundations to become a military power, Frelimo pledged "to strengthen fraternal relations of comradeship with the revolutionary armies of Africa", especially with the Tanzanian and the Zambian Armies.