

Mondlane Had "Many Dreams"

The death of the founder of the Front for the Liberation of Mozambique (Frelimo), Eduardo Mondlane, twenty years earlier, "was not in vain", President Joaquim Chissano told a mass rally in Maputo's Heroes' Square on 3 February.

Mondlane died on 3 February 1969 when he opened a parcel bomb sent to his office in Dar Es Salaam by the Portuguese secret police, the PIDE.

Mondlane's body was buried in Dar Es Salaam but his coffin was flown to Mozambique after independence, and in 1979 was laid to rest in the newly constructed monument to Mozambican heroes.

At this month's ceremony, attended by the party and state leadership, and many thousands of Maputo residents, President Chissano and Mondlane's widow Janet, accompanied by their son, Eduardo Jr and their two daughters, Chude and Nyeleti, laid wreaths at Eduardo Mondlane's tomb.

Mr Chissano described Mondlane as a revolutionary "in the sense of bringing ideas of freedom to the Mozambican people, in the sense of a programme of economic and social development for Mozambique, in the sense of envisaging the stages necessary in the process of nation-building". Mondlane, he continued, knew that socialism could not be "just an abstract word".

"The term socialism had to have a specific content for Mozambique. He knew that socialism meant development, socialism meant the struggle against hunger, against ignorance, against obscurantism, against misery," said Mr Chissano.

Mondlane had many enemies, Mr Chissano said, "because he symbolised the Mozambican people's aspirations for independence". Mondlane himself, recalled Mr Chissano, once said, "I may die, but I am sure the struggle will continue, because the struggle has now entered the people themselves, the struggle is directed by the people."

The same enemies that Mondlane faced still exist, the president warned. "There are still those who want to oppress and exploit the Mozambican people.

"Against these forces", pledged Mr Chissano, "we repeat the cry of Mondlane—"A luta continua"—(the struggle continues).

Later on the same day, Janet Mondlane, Mondlane's widow, assured the Mozambican people that although her husband had had "many dreams", the "most important dreams"—including "the dream of a Mozambican nation"—"had been realised".

Ms Mondlane was speaking at a ceremony at the Rectory of Mozambique's Eduardo Mondlane University—named after her husband in 1976—at which Ms Mondlane and two of her children presented the university's Rector, Rui Baltazar, with the robes Eduardo Mondlane wore to receive his doctorate degree.

Ms Mondlane read from a letter her husband had written a friend at the time of his graduation. In it, he acknowledged the "very solemn occasion" but regretted the constraints of university study and welcomed the opportunity "to do the work that satisfies my spirit".

At the ceremony, President Chissano hailed Mondlane, one of the country's most accomplished academ-

ics, as "a man of the people in the fullest sense", someone who could converse as easily with a intellectual as with an illiterate. Mr Chissano urged university students to follow Mondlane's example by acquiring a "scientific understanding applicable to the needs of the society" and not creating a "gulf between intellectual and other workers". The university needs financial support, the president said, but since "by definition, the university is a centre of creativity", he urged its members to try to resolve their own problems, to the point of fighting the MNR bandits, if necessary.

Former rector Fernando Ganhao, announcing a seminar on the political and philosophical thinking of Eduardo Mondlane for the coming academic year, presented a paper on morality and power. He dealt at length with the thinking of Hegel, Spinoza, Machiavelli, Gramsci and Marx.



Remembering Mondlane: From left, Olivia Machel and Graca Machel; Nyeleti, Chude, Eduardo Jr and Janet Mondlane; Marcelina Chissano (AIM/ Alfredo Mueche)