

Sponsors.
Basil Davidson
Col'n Jackson MP
Lord Kilbracken
Rev Clifford Parsons

Executive Committee
Chairman: Lord Gifford
Hon Sec. Polly Gaster
Frank Judd MP.
Jane Kellock.
Hilary Wainwright

Committee for Freedom in Mozambique

1 Antrim Rd London NW3 phone 01-722 9030

PRESS STATEMENT ISSUED BY FRELIMO

On April 3rd 1969, the Portuguese authorities in Mozambique announced that LAZARO KAVANDAME, "the supreme military leader of FRELIMO", has joined the colonialist forces and is collaborating with them in the struggle against the nationalist movement - FRELIMO.

Concerning this, FRELIMO has the following to say:

1) Lazaro Kavandame once held an important position in FRELIMO. He was appointed Provincial Secretary of Cabo Delgado Province, and was in charge of Commercial activities in that Province.

2) However, for some time, FRELIMO has been aware of the connections of Lazaro Kavandame with counter-revolutionary forces, based on the following facts:

- a) He used his post in our commercial structure to serve his own personal interests, exploiting the people in the exchange of goods, and keeping the difference.
- b) These activities were denounced by the people, and FRELIMO established a Commission of Inquiry to investigate the matter. When he found out about this, Lazaro Kavandame organised a group of people, his collaborators in the exploitation of the people, to sabotage the work of the Commission. It was on his orders that the group murdered one of FRELIMO's military commanders on the 22nd December, 1969. His defection, therefore, is to escape trial for this murder of which he was declared to be the organiser by the 16 elements of his group who are under detention awaiting trial.
- c) These activities, culminating in murder, classified Lazaro Kavandame as an enemy of the Mozambican people and of the Mozambican Revolution. In fact, this murder was in accordance with the Portuguese plan of murdering FRELIMO leaders in order to stop the liberation Movement.

.../...

...2...

3) Therefore, on the 3rd of January, 1969, the Executive Committee of FRELIMO met, in order to consider the case of Lazaro Kavandame, and decided:

- a) To dismiss Lazaro Kavandame from his position as Provincial Secretary of Cabo Delgado,
- b) As a result of this dismissal, Lazaro Kavandame is automatically removed from membership of the Central Committee of FRELIMO;
- c) Lazaro Kavandame was also dismissed from the post he held in FRELIMO's commercial section.

4) The defection of Lazaro Kavandame to the Portuguese will not have any effect on our liberation struggle, because:

- a) Contrary to what the Portuguese announced, Lazaro Kavandame has never had any military position in FRELIMO, having held a merely administrative position.
- b) He was denounced by the people of Cabo Delgado themselves as being an exploiter and counter-revolutionary; therefore, the people are now well aware of his criminal character and activities.
- c) Also, contrary to what the Portuguese say, Lazaro was never a tribal chief in Mozambique. The only influence he had on the people derived from the position to which FRELIMO appointed him.
- d) He is ignorant of the present state of the military struggle, as he has not been in Mozambique since December 1967.

The Portuguese claim that "Portugal is poised for a breakthrough in Mozambique as a result of the defection of Lazaro Kavandame", is therefore completely valueless, and mere colonialist propaganda.

Dar-es-Salaam, 4th April, 1969.