

Surrenders to Portuguese Army

Mozambique Guerrilla Chief Defects

By Marvin Howe

LISBON, April 3 (NYT).—Portugal pinned hopes today on the defection of a Mozambique tribal chief as the means of bringing an end to the four-and-a-half-year guerrilla war in the East African territory.

A leader of the warrior Makonde tribe of northern Mozambique has surrendered to the Portuguese Army and called on his fellow tribesmen tomorrow to lay down their arms. It was officially announced here tonight.

The defecting Makonde leader was said to be Lazaro Kavandame, 65-year-old military chief of the tribes who first revolted against Portuguese rule in September, 1964. "Kavandame became convinced that his people were being sacrific-

ed in a war from which no final victory or advantages could be expected and decided that the time was ripe to put an end to subversion and cooperate with the Portuguese government . . ." declared a joint communiqué issued by Portugal's Ministries of Defense and Overseas Territories.

Portuguese Defense Ministry sources report that over 400 Portuguese soldiers have been killed in action in the Mozambique guerrilla war, which has been led by the Mozambique Liberation Front.

Portuguese authorities hope that shortly the 80,000 Makondes living in northeastern Mozambique's Cabo Delgado district will rally to Chief Kavandame's appeal. They are, however, unsure of the repercussions of the defection among the some 120,000 Makondes living on

the other side of the border in Tanzania.

"This could mean the end of the Mozambique Liberation Front and would have a powerful impact on guerrilla wars in Angola and Portuguese Guinea," a Lisbon official said.

The reports of Chief Kavandame's surrender to the Portuguese were made public only a week before Premier Marcello Cactano is scheduled to make an official tour of Portugal's three guerrilla-ridden African territories.

Angola Defector

The Portuguese government said that an official communiqué on the Kavandame affair would be published tomorrow. However, a communiqué from Portuguese authorities in Mozambique this afternoon confirmed reports that the Makonde chief had turned himself in.

The Portuguese Army in Mozambique is now distributing thousands of leaflets to guerrillas in the bush announcing Chief Kavandame's surrender and the end of the war, according to sources close to the Defense Ministry.

Portugal benefitted from a similar defection in Angola's northernmost enclave of Cabinda two years ago—and has had little trouble from nationalist guerrillas there since. Tribal Chief Alexandre Tati, formerly a member of the Angolan government in exile, now commands his own tribal militias in cooperation with the Portuguese armed forces in Cabinda.

The success of this operation depends on the authority of Chief Kavandame among the Makonde tribesmen. Independent observers who have visited the front in northern Mozambique acknowledge that they have never heard of the man before.

Chief Kavandame's conditions for surrender to the Portuguese were said to be the following:

- That Portuguese military cease operations in the Makonde plateau region, which lies in the northeast Cabo Delgado district, south of Tanzania.

- That Portuguese authorities show respect for the Makonde chiefs and tribal organization.

- That the Portuguese government grant assistance to the Makondes for education, health and agriculture.

- That the Makondes should be held responsible for law and order in their own territory.

Lisbon Agrees

Lisbon has agreed to these conditions, according to sources close to the government.

The Portuguese will achieve a major victory in Mozambique if the Makonde tribesmen can be persuaded to end hostilities, according to views held by diplomatic sources here.

The Mozambique Liberation Front's stronghold from the start has been the rough impenetrable Makonde plateau and an estimated half of the front's guerrilla forces were Makonde tribesmen.

The front has established zones of insecurity for Portuguese forces in the northwestern Niassa district and recently made incursions in the western Tete district, but the loss of the Makonde plateau would be a heavy blow.

Chief Kavandame broke with the Liberation Front after the mysterious assassination of the group's leader, Eduardo Mondlane, last February, according to informed Portuguese sources from Mozambique. The Makonde chief had resented the front's leadership for some time, however, reproaching Mr. Mondlane and other leaders for not going to the front and not giving the fighters necessary arms.

The Makonde defector is said to have told Portuguese military officials that he decided to leave the Mozambique Liberation Front after Mr. Mondlane's successor, the Rev. Uriah Simango, appointed his own leaders over the Makonde guerrillas.

Mr. Simango, according to the Portuguese, had Chief Kavandame put under house arrest at Mtwara, a southern Tanzanian coastal town, where the Mozambique Liberation Front has a training camp.

Chief Kavandame then is said to have escaped and walked for 26 days through the jungle before presenting himself to Portuguese military authorities at the northern post of Nangaden on March 16.

A special emissary of the governor-general of Mozambique flew to the northern naval base of Porto Amelia to meet secretly with the defector and work out the terms of surrender.

It was decided that Chief Kavandame would draft a proclamation to the Makonde tribesmen in their native language telling them that the war was over and asking them to give up their arms. Thousands of copies of this proclamation are to be dropped from planes over the Makonde plateau.

Chief Kavandame is to broadcast a personal appeal over the radio calling on the Makondes to surrender. It was decided that he would make the appeal on Good Friday.

Resistance to Continue

DAR ES-SALAAM, Tanzania, April 3 (UPI).—The Mozambique nationalist guerrilla operations against the Portuguese will continue despite the surrender of a tribal chief, it was stated here today.

Officials of the Mozambique National Liberation Front announced the "defection" to the Portuguese side of Lazaro Kavandame, chief of the Makonde tribe which provides the bulk of guerrillas fighting Portuguese forces in the territory.

But the officials said Chief Kavandame's action would have "absolutely no effect" on the guerrilla operations. They denied reports originating in Lisbon that Chief Kavandame's surrender would lead to large-scale defections to the Portuguese by his followers.

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