



tricontinental scene



THE FRELIMO pilot school in Tete is located in K., on a hill in the middle of thick bush. The spreading branches of high trees cover the whole area of the school, hiding it from enemy airplanes. A small tributary of the River Capoché runs about 20 meters from the students' houses. The huts of the students and teachers, the kitchen, dining hall, bathrooms, infirmary and storehouse form a unit which is about 200 meters away from the classrooms. And about half an hour's march

from the school are the *shambas*, whose produce feeds the 30 people of the school. Four sentry posts at vantage points around the edge of the area are manned to warn students and teachers of any attack.

In our political classes we teach what FRELIMO is, why we are fighting, the aims of our struggle, and the statutes, program and organs of FRELIMO. We define who the enemy is and what the characteristics of the struggle are. The accent is on its revolutionary, popular and protracted

EDUCATION IN FREE MOZAMBIQUE

The education program in Tete Province is developing at a vigorous pace. There are already 16 schools with several thousand students in the various

stages of primary schooling. And now a pilot school, whose function is to direct and coordinate the work of all others in the sector, has been set up.

nature, and on the role of the student in the revolution, why he is here and what FRELIMO expects of him during his stay at the center and afterwards. Students must also learn what a pilot center should be, relations of the center with the people, the kind of education we aim at, and its differences from colonial education.

We already have opportunities to open many more schools as soon as the teachers finish their preparation. This year, on the other hand, food production was intensi-

fied, although the shortage of seeds continues. In this pilot center we have ten students in second class who should all pass to third class judging by their present progress. In certain boarding schools we have more than 100 students.

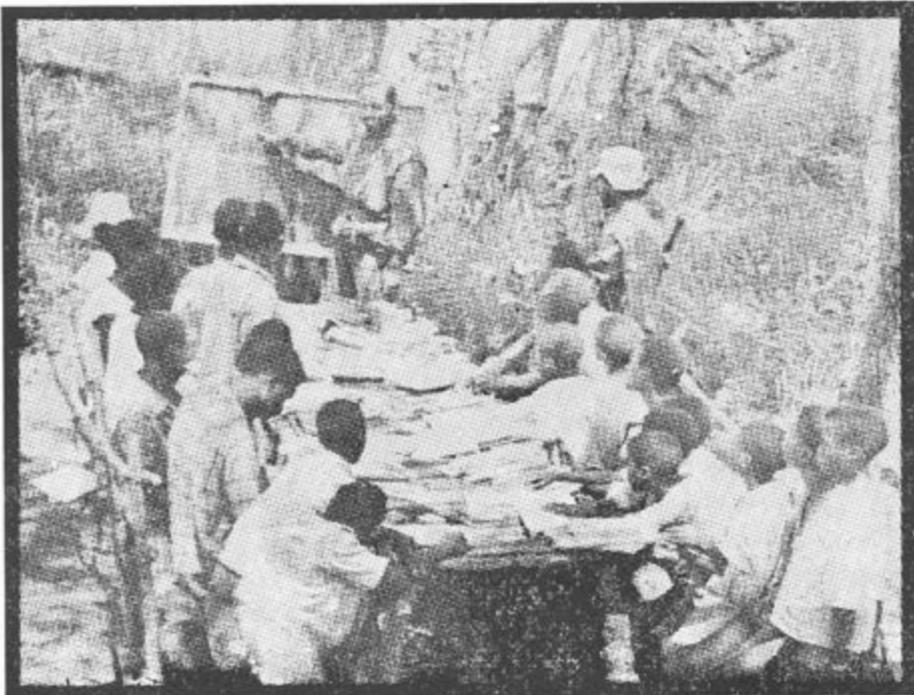
All the students are from this province. But we had to bring the teachers from other provinces; two are from Monica and Sofala, one from Cabo Delgado and one from Zambezia.



Head of the School

My name is Roque Vicente, I am 23 years old, I was born in in Nangololo, District of Mueda, Cabo Delgado Province. My parents are peasants. I went to school at the Catholic Mission of Nangololo where I finished primary education in 1960. As there was no secondary school for Africans in the whole province, I was forced to enter the seminary of Mariri where I did three years. In 1964, I was expelled from the seminary, accused of being part of a group of students connected with subversive activities. After my expulsion I joined FRELIMO. I have been teaching in the FRELIMO schools of Bagamoyo and Tunduru. In 1970 I was sent to the interior of my country to the Province of Tete, where I am teaching in the pilot center of this province.

Portuguese colonialist oppression against the people in my region, mass arrests to fill the PIDE prisons, terrorist acts by the Portuguese troops, people without education through lack of schools — it was this which compelled me to join the liberation struggle and fight in order to end all kinds of exploitation and oppression in my country. That is why I am here in Tete, and I am happy to be here, it is exactly the same as being in Cabo Delgado or in any other province because it is part of one and the same Mozambique. That is also what we teach our comrades in the school — for them to know our country, to know that Tete is part of Mozambique as is Niassa, Cabo Delgado, Zambezia. Because only thus will we be able to take the liberation struggle to the whole country.



María Njanje, Student: The Woman's Role



When I was 17 years old my parents forced me to marry. This is the custom here — women marry very young. I would prefer to study rather than to marry, but as I did not see any possibility of being able to continue studying, and as tradition is very strong, I married. I have a son. When FRELIMO arrived my husband joined the guerrillas. He is a FRELIMO fighter. I showed a willingness to study and so FRELIMO placed me in a school. Before that I was in a FRELIMO base — as I already had first grade, I taught the comrades at the base how to read and write. In my class I had 141 students. Then after that I studied second and at the end of last year I was transferred here to the pilot school where I am studying third grade.

I am very happy to have come to FRELIMO. First of all because I can study — that was always my dream. With the colonialists only those who have money can study. Here everybody who wants to study is allowed to do so. Another difference I notice is that the Portuguese teachers were not interested in explaining to anyone who did not understand something; while here our teachers make every effort to ensure that we understand everything.

The Portuguese troops, when they arrive in a village, steal chickens, pigs, cattle, from the people. The guerrillas never take anything from the people. When the Portuguese soldiers find girls on the roads they violate them. In FRELIMO we women are very much respected — and this impresses our sisters who come from the enemy zone, as I did. We are accustomed to something quite different. Under the colonialists, when a man in uniform appeared, it usually meant ill-treatment. We are so surprised at first when we see the guerrillas treating us as sisters, not as objects of pleasure.

The problem of participation of women in our education program is serious in this province. We must change the traditions which force us to marry when we are very young. I myself am engaged in a campaign aimed at the families in this region to explain to them the need to change this custom: it is harmful to us and to the revolution.



the afternoon he can carry on his normal duties. Or else we suggest that during certain periods after the harvesting, when there is no danger of the cattle damaging the *shambas* and thus no need for a cow-herd, the children should be allowed to go to school.

Another problem is the participation of women. In this province girls traditionally marry very young, sometimes when they are ten years old — and that is just the age when they should go to school. And when this happens, of course, the husbands do not allow them to go and study. We have launched a big campaign aimed at the parents and now many of them understand that they should not permit their daughters to marry so young. Since the revolution started, this kind of marriage has diminished very much. And the proof of our success can be seen by the attendance of girls in our schools — in five schools we have more girls than boys. But this does not happen everywhere, women's participation in schools is still a problem.

(Taken from *Mozambique Revolution*)

José Jeque, Student: A Real Chance to Learn

I attended the second grade in Chiuta in 1958, but was compelled to abandon school because the Portuguese forced me to pay personal tax. So I went to Moatize to work as a servant. I was very ill-treated, I received 125 escudos per month. I gathered the necessary money to pay the tax — 175 escudos — then I went home where I stayed until 1963 working in the shambas. In 1963 I went to Tete where I got a job helping in the maintenance of bulldozers. I was there one year, then the company moved to Lourenço Marques and I was again unemployed. I returned home. In 1966 I got a job in Beira in the stores of the railway station, I earned very little, I was alone — but even so I endured it for four years. In 1970 I returned home. When I arrived there was war in my area. The Portuguese had killed many people. My family had been arrested: the colonialists had accused my mother of having given food to the guerrillas and they arrested the whole family.

In a single day 12 people — 12 women — had been killed in my village. They had gone to cultivate the fields and they had taken maize flour to eat during the day. At noon they went to a nearby well in order to use the water to cook. When they were near the well they met the Portuguese troops. The Portuguese commander asked them where they were taking the flour. They answered, "we are going to cook for us to eat." The Portuguese then answered, "what you are going to do is to take that to the terrorists... you collaborate with them, I am going to teach you a lesson." He shot off several rounds of his machine gun and killed all 12 women. Their bodies remained abandoned near the well.

When I heard this I decided to run away before the Portuguese found me: I entered the bush and went to a FRELIMO base. I was there teaching first grade (I had 109 students), before coming to this pilot school where I am now studying in third grade.

Of course I am very happy that I came to FRELIMO. I am only doing third grade although I am 28 years old, but this is one of the consequences of colonialism. Our struggle will enable our children to have better conditions.

