

# The Evolution of FRELIMO

Eduardo Mondlane

*Excerpt from a previously unpublished interview by Aquino de Braganca, recorded in Algiers shortly after the Second Congress in 1968.*

**de Braganca:** What would you say if it were asserted that FRELIMO began by being a front and has transformed itself into a political party?

**Mondlane:** Of course, of course. I agree that as a result of the experience of ten days of the [Second] Congress, FRELIMO has a political line that is much clearer than previously. In the first place because this line came to be seen as important in the conditions of our struggle, in part also because there were some elements within FRELIMO who brought these ideas with them to the struggle. A common base we all had when we formed FRELIMO was the hatred of colonialism, the necessity of destroying the colonial structure — but what type of social structure no-one knew. Some knew, had theoretical ideas, but even they were transformed by the struggle. There is a coalescence of thought that came about in these last few years that makes it possible for me to say, and I do believe it, that FRELIMO is now really far more socialist, revolutionary, and progressive than ever before, and now tends more and more in the direction of socialism of the Marxist-Leninist variety.

Because the conditions of life in Mozambique, the type of enemy we have, permit no other alternative. It is impossible to create a capitalist Mozambique. It would be ridiculous for the people to fight to destroy the enemy's economic structure and then reconstruct it for the enemy. It would be ridiculous, and I have said so several times. Now we're not going to do that. We are going to create a socialist system and there now exists a wealth of experiences of various socialist countries that we shall study carefully. So that it is in this way that the theory of Marxism-Leninism and the experience (including the errors) of the socialist countries that have been working and living a socialist experience since 1917 are very relevant for us.

The training of politico-military cadres includes instruction about socialism. So that those who came to the movement with a Catholic religious background continue to be Catholics but Marxist Catholics. It is possible!

Without compromising the Party which has not yet made an official declaration asserting it is Marxist-Leninist, I think FRELIMO can be said to be inclining more and more in this direction because the conditions under which we struggle and live require it.