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"Yours in the Struggle:"

Abemmelek Ermeyses
Under the Supervision
of Dr. Eric Allina,
University of Ottawa

FRELIMO RELATIONS WITH THE SOCIALIST BLOC, 1963-1976

Introduction

The struggle for independence in Africa saw Soviet influence rise as various independent African states emerged from colonial rule and entered into an international network of socialist states. Set in the context of the Cold War, most research casts long-term co-operation between African states and nationalist groups with countries in the Socialist bloc as military alliances. This limited view has often depicted post-colonial African states and revolutionary groups as pawns used by the Soviet Union in a Cold War chess match to spread Soviet influence and socialist ideas across the continent.

This project analyzes relations between the Socialist bloc and FRELIMO, a Mozambican nationalist group, to consider whether, and to what extent, the relationship stretched beyond mutual military interests.

Methodology

Analysis of over 100 correspondence documents including letters, reports, articles, and official statements and speeches from the National Archives of Mozambique¹ was used to track various exchanges between FRELIMO and their counterparts in socialist countries.

Title	Date	Language	Summary	Key Words
DPOd My Visit to Peking	26-Nov-7-Dec-63	English	Report written by Eduardo Mondlane, recently elected president of FRELIMO on his visit to China from Nov. 26- Dec. 7, 1963, also describing his stop to West Germany on his way there.	UN discussions, The New China, Portuguese Colonization, MLTO, FRELIMO, Hamburg News, scholarships, visas, Chinese development.
DREZ2A Asa Chiefo tradicionalista	01-Apr-64	Portuguese	DREZ2A	DREZ2A
Chissano estudantes para URSS	13-Aug-64	English	Letter from Joaquim Chissano to the USSR embassy in Dar-Es-Salaam, listing 5 candidates for scholarships to attend the Central Youth School in the USSR.	Scholarships, Name, Age, Languages
Chissano-Chiefo	24-Jul-64 12-Oct-63	Portuguese English	2nd letter Letter from J. Chissano to Frank Chiefo, a student and Frelimo representative studying at Friendship University, Moscow, and contains a general update on Frelimo activities in Mozambique and internationally.	Independence ou Refugees, United Nations, UNDP/MAO, Mozambican Liberation Army, Mozambican Institute.

Drawing on documents dating from 1962 to 1976, this project records long-term co-operation that begins well before the start of the Mozambican War of Independence and well after Mozambique is freed from colonial rule.

Results

The findings of this project reveal the nature of a relationship that extended well beyond military aid. FRELIMO efforts at international outreach were primarily with different countries in the Socialist bloc, including elements of economic, educational, diplomatic and military support:



- Diplomatic
- Educational/Economic
- Military

Legend

- T: training
- S: supplies
- E: event
- C: conferences/visits
- O: official statement/article
- A: funds/aid
- P: personnel sent

Educational/ Economic: Provide scholarships and grants for Mozambican students to study in universities in different socialist countries, and the supplying of educational supplies. Financial aid was also sent through funds and material to the FRELIMO camp in Tanganyika (modern-day Tanzania).

Military Aid: military aid, military training for FRELIMO students abroad, sending technicians, sending supplies such as clothing.

Diplomatic: statements of support, *Solidarity* events, and international conferences regularly brought FRELIMO leaders in contact with different states in the Socialist bloc. FRELIMO was an active member in the socialist bloc by making statements condemning military actions taken against other socialist countries, while international conferences helped foster a political vision for FRELIMO leaders on what post-colonial Mozambique would be shaped into.

Implications

The results of this project reveal that relations between FRELIMO and the socialist bloc stretched far beyond a military alliance, and included long-term co-operation in multiple sectors, most significantly, in FRELIMO diplomatic relations with different countries in the Soviet bloc. Analysis of primary sources reveals a different image of the extension of Soviet influence and socialism in post-colonial African states, and uncovers another piece in an international network of socialist states during the Cold War.



Caring for wounded orphans at a FRELIMO orphanage school²



Samora Machel visits Holland, 1983³



1962: formation of FRELIMO

1964: Mozambican War of Independence begins

1969: FRELIMO President Mondlane Assassinated

1970: Operation Gordian Knot

1972: Wiriyamu Massacre

1975: Mozambican Independence

1960

1963: Gathering foreign support

1967: Reports on Foreign visits

1969: Samora Machel elected as President of FRELIMO

1971: Fourteen-fold GDR budget spike to FRELIMO

1974: Carnation Revolution and Ceasefire

1976

References

- Correspondence documents collected from the National Archives of Mozambique.
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A Makonde Woman at a school set up by FRELIMO⁴

Contact:

aeirme051@uottawa.ca