



A FRELIMO patrol in Mozambique marches a group of Portuguese and African prisoners to Nametil Barracks, where they

were held hostage for an exchange of prisoners.

such sources as the Swedish, Danish, Norwegian and Dutch Governments and the World Council of Churches as from Eastern countries. But the implications of the involvement of NATO and of multinational corporations on the side of the Portuguese were not lost upon Mozambiquans. There thus developed a healthy scepticism about Western involvement in Africa — an anti-imperialist perspective — that has had a significant impact upon the movement's definition of its goals.

This clarity of vision about the necessity of a radical approach to development — a clarity that should also find expression in egalitarian and self-reliant policies in the post-independence era — did not come easily to FRELIMO, of course. Around the time of Mondlane's assassination in 1969 (also effected by the Portuguese), there was a struggle for control of the movement between conservative and radical elements. Yet it was the radicals, with their strong popular base, who soon carried the day, and then worked to reinforce the exemplary patterns described above. After the *coup*, the Portuguese had little choice, ultimately, but to come to terms with a force so firmly grounded. In early September 1974, a FRELIMO delegation led by the movement's President, Samora Machel, met with an official Portuguese delegation in Lusaka, and an agreement was concluded that would bring Mozambique its independence within a year.

Almost immediately, a transitional government was established, with FRELIMO clearly in command, occupying two-thirds of the positions created and with Joaquim Chissano, a senior FRELIMO official, serving as Premier.

This provisional ruling group is, in turn, to provide the core of the government that assumes full power in Mozambique on June 25, 1975 — when Samora Machel will, in all probability, become the first President of the country. It is true that there remain continuing threats to any such smooth transition. Nevertheless, it should prove difficult to reverse a process that has shifted the situation so dramatically in the direction of a free and FRELIMO-led Mozambique. Similarly, there are great challenges in store for the post-independence period — challenges arising, in particular, from the need to correct the distorted economic legacy left by the Portuguese. Yet here again the Mozambique revolution has found in FRELIMO a popular and ideologically mature political expression that will not easily break its promises to the people of Mozambique or lend itself to manipulation by outside forces.

Similar roots in Angola

The struggle against Portuguese colonialism in Angola had similar roots to the struggles in Guinea-Bissau and Mozambique and, in fact, was the first to reach

*Radicals won
1969 power struggle
within Frelimo*