A Luta Continua

"A Luta Continua" is a film photographic and written treatment of the armed struggle being waged by the people of Mozambique against Portuguese colonialism and imperialism. Mozambique is strategically situated in southeastern Africa and has been the scene of the most successful (and at this date) most important liberation movement in southern and colonized Africa. It borders on Tanzania, Malawi, Zimbabwe, Zambia, and South Africa.

In spite of her own economic backwardness and high rate of illiteracy, Portugal maintains, in Africa, the world's largest colonial empire. She has continuously defied United Nations resolutions and international public opinion by maintaining a colonial presence in Mozambique, Angola, and Guinea-Bissau. Presently the Mozambique Liberation Front (FRELIMO) has liberated one-fourth of the countryside and there are over one million people (out of a total population of almost eight million) living in the liberated areas. As the United States has done in southeast Asia, the Portuguese are maintaining a large expeditionary force in an effort to thwart the Mozambican freedom fighters. The Portuguese have also received combat assistance from South African (3 battalions of which are based near the proposed Cabora Bassa hydroelectric scheme) and Rhodesian troops.

This revolutionary struggle which commenced on September 25, 1964, takes on an added significance because southern Africa is the last bastion of a completely discredited way of living. Portugal has been unable to sustain her war efforts with the assistance of South Africa, Rhodesia, and the NATO alliance (through which the United States has played a crucial role in denying the legitimate aspirations of the African people). A continuation of the present trends can only lead to further involvement by the western powers, particularly the United States, and involve America in another Vietnam. Every effort should be made to curtail present United States support for Portugal, South Africa, and Rhodesia before it is too late.

In this connection, an Afro-American journalistic crew entered Mozambique at the end of August, 1971 and spent six weeks traveling with a column from the FRELIMO army. They lived, marched, ate, and slept with the popular forces and the local population throughout that period. They traveled in a region which is noted for its mountains, rivers, and rugged terrain. The purpose of this journey was to observe, experience, film, photograph, and record as many aspects of the struggle as possible.

The crew consisted of Robert Fletcher, a freelance photographer (cameraman and still photographer), and Robert Van Lierop, an attorney (sound-man, still photographer and writer). The project was independently financed and all materials will be distributed with the object of informing the American public of the presently existing situation in Mozambique.

In order to distribute these material and educate the American public as to the present situation in Mozambique, Messrs. Fletcher and Van Lierop will be available to speak to various groups, meetings, etc. The film is in the process of being edited and will be ready for distribution sometime in the early spring of 1972. While in Mozambique they took approximately 4,000 still photographs, most of which were color slides, and they will be able to make a slide presentation which will vividly depict the actual situation that exists in the liberated areas of Mozambique.
In order to facilitate the work of this project, it will be necessary for organizations to provide travel expenses. In addition, an honorarium will be appreciated.

For further information, please contact:

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