

MESSAGE OF SOLIDARITY FROM THE ANC

BY BERNARD MAGUBANE

COMRADE MR. PRESIDENT ARISTIDES PEREIRA,  
COMRADE MR. PRESIDENT SEDAR SENGHOR,  
COMRADES MR. PRIME MINISTER PEDRO PIRES,  
COMRADE PARTICIPANTS AND DELEGATES,

Let me extend to you the greetings of the suffering people of South Africa, the President of the ANC OLIVER TAMBO and the partisans of Umkhonto We Sizwe, the military wing of the ANC. They draw a great deal of inspiration from the life and works of Comrade AMILCAR CABRAL and from the example of your struggle.

Let me also take this occasion to congratulate you on the occasion of this Symposium. For us in South Africa it is difficult to speak of Comrade CABRAL in the past tense. To us he lives on and will live on for ever.

The struggle for national liberation in Guinea-Bissau, Cap Verde and other Portuguese territories were epic struggles to end colonialism and to build new societies. AMILCAR CABRAL is a giant in a generation of great liberation leaders of the modern era. Grounded not only in the hearts of this people but the heart and minds of struggling humanity everywhere, he received inspiration from great revolutionaries and out of the history of revolutionary struggles. He studied Marx, Engels, Lenin, Fanon and Nkrumah. He studied judiciously Western bourgeois thought, and examined carefully the revolutionary experiences from Russia,

China, Cuba, Algeria and Vietnam. He admired Lumumba, but learned from his mistakes. He adjusted to the environment of Guinea-Bissau and Cape Verde revolutionary lesson from other parts of the world. He sought a synthesis and found it in the conception of humanity as a totality, in the concept and constructive expression of revolutionary humanism, factoring out class and race with revolution nationalisme and expanding beyond his original base to engage directly in the historical process of the universal and continuing transformation of humanity I indeed there was in Cabral that dual vis historica: the revolutionaries desire to make history and the theoreticians impulse to describe and theorise its meaning.

The people of Cape Verde and Guinea-Bissau, under the leadership of Cabral and the PAIGC, lost fear of the Portuguese vicious dictatorship. For they absorbed and understood Cabral's profound statement that "the dialectic of colonial repression has proved that today no colonial aggressor can overcome peoples who are determined to win their freedom". In the course of struggle, the people of Cape Verde and Guinea-Bissau began to expose Portuguese colonialists bravado for that it was an unpopular dictatorship. They isolated them as enemies of human freedom, and struggle began to humanize the Portuguese people and to place themselves once more back in the main stream of human history. It is no wonder that PIDE, the ruthless political police of the Portuguese and their imperialist allies sought to silence forever this epic example of African and Third World revolutionary spirit, this outstanding hero.



MESSAGE OF AAPSO TO AMILCAR CABRAL SYMPOSIUM

PRAIA 17 - 20th JANUARY

Comrade Prime Minister

Your Excellencies

Distinguished Participants,

The Afro-Asian People's Solidarity Organization is greatly honoured to participate in this great effort, which is a fitting tribute to one of Africa's most outstanding statesmen and revolutionaries. We therefore wish to express our deepest gratitude to the People of Cape Verde who have made this possible. We also avail ourselves the opportunity to conveying to them the militant greetings of the peoples of Africa and Asia represented in this Conference.

Distinguished participants, we in AAPSO greatly welcomed this Symposium dedicated to the memory of Cabral. For us its significance will not only in the fact that it helps to place on record the theory and revolutionary practice of Amilcar Cabral. It is our considered view that an in-depth appraisal of Cabral will enable us to use legacy to resolve some of the complex contemporary problems to which he so diligently addressed himself. This is particularly important today when those forces against which he devoted his life's work are in the process of re-grouping seeking to entrench themselves and perpetuate relations of inequality and exploitation among the people and among nations. Indeed the struggle against colonization and oppression which he helped to pioneer is being fought with earnest in remaining pockets of colonialism notably in Southern Africa and Middle East.

Amilcar Cabral, as we have heard from the very many contributions by eminent personalities for this symposium appears to the world in man-fold dimensions -- poet, scientist, revolutionary. However, the people of Africa and Asia fighting against oppression and exploitation,

and to AAPSO, Cabral shall always be best remembered as a true patriot and fighter of Cape Verde, a leading African Revolutionary. Yet his undoubted love for his own people did not submerge his dedication to the cause of humanity elsewhere. Cabral was indeed a true champion of African Freedom and Unity and the Custodian of the lofty principles of non-alignment as expressed in the historic Bandung Conference. The AAPSO which is itself the progeny of the spirit of Bandung, takes pride at the fact that its birth and growth is attributable among others to the tireless efforts of PAIGC and in particular the invaluable contribution of Cabral.

In spite of the heavy demands of the revolution in his own country, was an active participant in the peace and Solidarity Movement. Through his incisive analysis rooted in the reality of his own country, he was able to characterize the potent force of the unity of the struggles against colonial domination all over the world. Using the experiences of struggle in Cape Verde and Guinea, he was able to grasp the essence of the struggle elsewhere, making an invaluable contribution to the theory and practice of revolution.

For Cabral, therefore, solidarity with the peoples fighting for self-determination was not an act of charity but was a conscious act dictated by the imperatives of our epoch. Cabral was therefore militantly anti-colonialist and anti-imperialist. These are sentiments which constitute the very basis of AAPSO and which have seen our movement grow from strength to strength in its 25 years of existence.

In paying tribute to the memory of Cabral, AAPSO cannot but pledge itself to carry on the struggle for which Cabral lived and died. In this context, AAPSO shall forever remain loyal to the spirit of Cabral.

Finally, allow me to wish this symposium very successful deliberations. We also wish the PAICV and the people of Cape Verde greater successes in their struggle for the creation of a new society.

Thank you.