

Praise for the Party of Heath and Powell

Kremlin welcomes Tory victory

BY ROBERT BLACK

FOLLOWING the lead of US imperialism, S African racials and anti-communist regimes throughout the world, the Soviet bureaucracy has welcomed the Tory victory on June 18.

Italian unions renew general strike struggle

BY DAVID BARNES

ITALY'S three major trade unions have decided to call a general strike for July 7 in support of their demands for social reforms, tax cuts and price curbs.

The national trade union bodies CGIL (Communist and Socialist), CISL (Catholic) and UIL (Social Democratic) used the June 7 regional elections as an excuse to suspend the campaign on their demands, but are now forced by the membership to take up the fight again.

The unions are demanding extensive reforms of education, housing and health services, together with tax cuts on lower incomes and a price freeze on basic commodities.

Government opposition has stiffened since the regional elections, with right-wing Christian Democratic Ministers denouncing the union demands as 'economic lunacy'. They have made the insulting offer to abolish tax on wages below £8 a week, where the unions are seeking tax exemption for all earnings less than about £18 a week.

Forced to join

The Social Democrats, most right-wing of the leaders, have been forced to join the strike move and drop their contention that the government should be given time to show 'good will'.

The June 7 strike call thus opens the way for a renewal of the unity and strength shown in the November 19 general strike last year when over 20 million workers throughout Italy took action for better housing in the biggest strike of post-war Europe.

It was their action which shook the Christian Democratic government of the day and forced it to negotiate a coalition.

Pressure

The leaders of the million-strong Italian Communist Party see class actions for reforms as a means of pressure for a coalition of which the Communist Party is part. But, as many government leaders are well aware, the present struggles for reforms are but the opening stage of class battles in which the question of power will inevitably be raised.

TESCO PROFITS JUMP

TESCO, the supermarket group, rang up its biggest profits increase last year with pre-tax profits jumping by £2,301,000 to a record £12,508,000.

The company announced an increased dividend to shareholders and is expected to open 45 new branches this year.

Savage sentences for student 'guerrillas'

THE SENTENCES of between eight years and life imprisonment imposed on Arab school-children by an Israeli court, expresses both the brutality of Zionist imperialism and the determination of the mass struggle against it.

Twenty young Arabs, all but two of them high-school students, were tried on Tuesday for 'terrorist activities' in the Gaza Strip.

They were alleged to be affiliated to the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine. In the course of the trial, Mustafa al-Farah, 20-year-old nephew of the Jordanian delegate to the United Nations, shouted for the victory of the Palestinian revolution over the Israeli military government in Gaza. He was sentenced to 20 years imprisonment.

When the sentences were announced, there was uproar and troops cleared the court. During the trial, the railway through the Strip was blown up for the third day running.

Twenty-three years after the imperialists, backed by the Stalinist bureaucracy, set up the State of Israel, and after five years of Israeli military rule, the masses in the Gaza Strip are more than ever determined to defeat the Zionist agents of imperialism. The attempt to find a settlement which will leave Israel intact as an imperialist base will have to reckon with this determination, above all on the part of the youth.

In its comment on June 19, Moscow Radio presented the Tories as the party more likely to pursue a peaceful foreign policy:

"The Times" [which plumed for Heath from the word go] is evidently right in saying that the future government will scarcely be able to evade a revision of the country's pro-American foreign policy.'

Top people in London and Moscow obviously think alike!

Another broadcast, beamed to Britain on the same day, went even further in its praise for the party of Heath and Powell: 'It is timely to recall the serious rebuke made by Mr Heath to the Labour government during the election campaign.'

He claimed that during the past six years the government let others treat Britain as though she were a second-rate power. If this was not mere campaign invective we can expect the Conservative Party to put maximum effort into restoring Britain's prestige on the world scene as a big power, and this entails a more important foreign policy than the one the Labour government was following.'

Indeed, these 'maximum efforts' have already begun with the projected supply of £200 million worth of arms to the racist regime in S Africa, and the promise of a Tory presence 'East of Suez'.

Military and political aid to the fascist Portuguese colonialists in Africa is also part of this 'independent foreign policy course' so admired by Moscow's Stalinists.

The only danger is that Heath may not carry out such a policy — it might after all be 'mere campaign invective'!

After taking Wilson to task for supporting US policy in Vietnam, the broadcast went on:

Lost prestige

'This lack of an independent stand in assessing the actions of US imperialism in various parts of the world has caused Britain to lose her prestige as a Great Power... When Mr Heath rebuked Labour for permitting Britain to be regarded as a second-rate power, was that just election verbiage or was it the expression of a serious intention to steer Britain out of this fix?'

'The answer can only be supplied by what Mr Heath's government does.' Kremlin support for Heath's foreign policy is only a part

Tories to lift S. Africa arms embargo?

S AFRICAN Foreign Minister, Dr Muller, is to meet the Tory Foreign Secretary Home next Wednesday. The main topic for discussion is certain to be the request for the lifting of the embargo on arms shipments to S Africa.

Muller, supposedly on a 'private visit' to this country, is likely to get a favourable reply from the Tories.

So far, the government has not announced any action on the question, but has been waiting for a S African request to be sent.

The resumption of arms sales to the apartheid regime, halted with some hesitation by Wilson, will be an early example of the more openly reactionary foreign policy to be followed by the Tories, whose government has been so warmly welcomed in Moscow.

ENGINEERING

No retreat on procedure talks

UNION LEADERS are expected to report to the Isle of Man conference of the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions today on their negotiations with the employers for a new procedure agreement.

The key resolution before delegates, submitted by the Amalgamated Engineers and Foundryworkers, notes the lack of tangible progress towards replacing the 48-year-old York agreement and instructs the CSEU to make a final attempt to resolve differences with the Engineering Employers Federation.

'In the event of a breakdown,' it concludes, 'executive council are empowered to request unions to give notice of termination of the procedure agreement.'

But this motion was drafted well before last Friday's round of CSEU-EEF talks.

It now seems likely, on the strength of progress union leaders claim was made in those talks, that the Transport

and General Workers' Union's amendment to the AEF resolution will be accepted.

Notice

This would request unions to give three months' notice to the Engineering Employers' Federation to the effect that all affiliated unions would regard the present provisions for avoidance of disputes dated 1922 to have been exhausted at local conference stage.

The most publicized stumbling-block to a new agreement so far has been the number of conditions the employers wanted to hedge around the *status quo* principle of no management interference with existing conditions without mutual agreement.

Scanlon claims that fresh recommendations can be made to both sides on this issue.

Employers have also insisted, while accepting the need to shorten the present lengthy procedure, that all strikes and other forms of industrial action must be referred to union executives at national level before being sanctioned as constitutional.

Movement

T&GWU officials are now claiming that there is some movement here also. The union's amendment could, therefore, become one strut of a bridge to the employers for further talks.

Many engineering workers, however, are extremely



TUC general secretary Victor Feather at a press conference following yesterday's General Council meeting. Below: Also meeting yesterday was the Labour Party's National Executive Committee. Callaghan and Wilson are seen walking across Smith Square.

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Heathrow stewards lift ban on inquiry

BY A WORKERS PRESS CORRESPONDENT

HEATHROW AIRPORT shop stewards have agreed to lift their ban on giving evidence to the Robertson enquiry into industrial relations at the airport, which resumed after a month's adjournment in London yesterday.

Their decision—taken at an early-morning meeting with the Transport and General Workers' Unions' national

officer John Cousins—follows the dropping of civil proceedings against shop stewards' chairman Iain Stewart.

It ends the three-month ban on the inquiry imposed by shop stewards when the British Airport Authority (BAA) took out legal injunctions in an attempt to prevent stewards from 'blacking' the General Aviation Services

£1000 June Appeal Fund stands at £621 7s 3d

WE'RE STILL MARKING time. Yesterday was the worst day yet so far as the Fund goes.

We received £19 10s 10d, which brought the total to £621 7s 3d. We still have to raise £378 12s 9d by June 30. This means, on average, our postbag should bring us in approximately £64 a day.

We know you have not missed a single month yet without achieving the target. Please do not leave it too late. Post your donations at once to:

Workers Press
Appeal Fund,
186a Clapham High Street,
London, SW4.

Fianna Fail split widens

BY A CORRESPONDENT

THE SPLIT in the Fianna Fail Party—the ruling party in Eire—widened again yesterday after the resignation of former local government minister Kevin Boland from the party and its national executive.

Boland, who was forced to resign from the Irish cabinet last month together with two other ministers, Charles Haughey and Neil Blaney, has since launched a campaign inside the party to remove Lynch from the leadership.

He has demanded that a party congress be called to discuss Lynch's attitude towards Republicanism, supposedly the party's 'philosophy'.

Boland supports a more aggressive attitude towards the six counties, and his two co-thinkers are at present facing trial on arms-smuggling charges.

At the same time as he has cracked down on the Boland faction, Lynch has launched a campaign of police repression against left-wing Republicans and workers in struggle.

Running battle

The cement workers, now in the 21st week of their strike, have fought a continuous running battle with the police. 28 of them face heavy sentences for picketing activity.

At the same time, in Brixton prison London, Frank Keane, a left-wing Republican, is fighting a demand for his extradition from the Eire government.

If they succeed in getting him extradited, the Lynch government may imprison him for life.

Dozens of other militants inside Ireland are being persecuted by Lynch's police force.

Over the last fortnight, police have carried out vicious attacks on Dublin squatters protesting at property speculation.

Not that Boland and his friends disagree with this aspect of the Lynch programme.

Their intervention is designed largely to keep sections of workers and small farmers entrapped in the Fianna Fail machine.

But the continuing crisis in the S Ireland government, coinciding as it does with the marked class polarization in the occupied six counties, heralds major class battles throughout Ireland.

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THE SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE ANNOUNCES

IMPORTANT PUBLIC MEETING

'The working class
can defeat the
Tory government'

Monday June 29,
8 p.m.

CAXTON HALL

(nr. St James Park tube)

Speaker: G. HEALY
SLL national secretary

Chairman: M. BANDA
Editor Workers Press

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INTERNATIONAL
**Youth
NEWS**

Fight back against Tory govt NOW!

Says Y.S. National Committee

'FIGHT BACK AGAINST THE TORY GOVERNMENT NOW', that is the firm and immediate response of the Young Socialists National Committee to last week's general election results.

It is also the headline to a statement issued by the National Committee which has been printed in a second edition of YS official paper 'Keep Left'.

In a speedy front-page change the Young Socialists provide a rallying call to all youth who hate Toryism and who want to fight back against the results of six years of Wilson's betrayal.

The election of a Tory government, the statement says, is a most powerful challenge to young people all over Britain.

From
a
special
correspondent

annual conference in 1963 and 1964 included demands for the expropriation of the banks, all-out opposition to US imperialism in Vietnam and the nationalization of the basic industries without compensation and under workers' control.

"We were right. Those who expelled us have betrayed the working class into the hands of the Tory government."

Wilson and the right-wing failed to smash the Young Socialists in 1964, points out the statement. The YS has grown stronger and stronger through the fight against Wilson's pro-Tory policies at every stage over the past six years.

Today the youth movement emerges with a great achievement—the new daily paper, the Workers Press.

The National Committee calls on all youth to join in 'the greatest national campaign yet' to defeat the Tory government's reactionary policies.

"Our aim is to force this government to resign as soon as possible under conditions which will facilitate the building of the revolutionary party and the taking of power by the working class."

In line with its consistent policy of uniting with immigrant workers and youth the Young Socialists are to mobilize a campaign to 'defeat Powellism wherever it raises its head'.

"We now face the greatest challenge of all," says the statement. This underlines the intensity with which the Young Socialists will wage a summer-long recruitment campaign culminating in a nationwide rally at Alexandra Palace on October 18.

Explaining the electoral defeat

of the Labour Party the National Committee places the responsibility squarely on Wilson and his right-wing clique, who were given support by the 'left' MPs and the Stalinists.

The Labour government was a 'willing prisoner' of the international bankers and the City of London from 1964.

Whilst the Young Socialists had always wanted a real fight against capitalism and the Tory Party, Wilson wanted to placate Toryism by making capitalism work.

Wilson's subservience to big capital and the Tories, explains the statement, was the main reason for his expulsion of a majority of the Young Socialists in the summer of 1964.

The Young Socialists, says the National Committee, was the only socialist alternative which challenged Wilson's leadership from the inside of the Labour Party.

Its official policies, adopted at

IN CRITICIZING both the idealist and mechanical materialist conceptions of the world, Engels noted that their bankruptcy was most clearly revealed in the way they regarded necessary and chance occurrences in nature.

He states:

'Another opposition in which metaphysics is entangled is that of chance and necessity . . . it is declared that the necessity is the sole thing of scientific interest and that the accidental is a matter of indifference to science. That is to say: what can be brought under laws, hence what one knows, is interesting; what cannot be brought under laws, and therefore what one does not know, is a matter of indifference and can be ignored.

'Thereby all science comes to an end, for it has to investigate precisely that which we do not know . . . whether I term the cause of the inexplicable chance, or whether I term it God, is a matter of complete indifference as far as the thing itself is concerned.'

After dealing with the open idealists he then turns his fire devastatingly against crude determinist materialism.

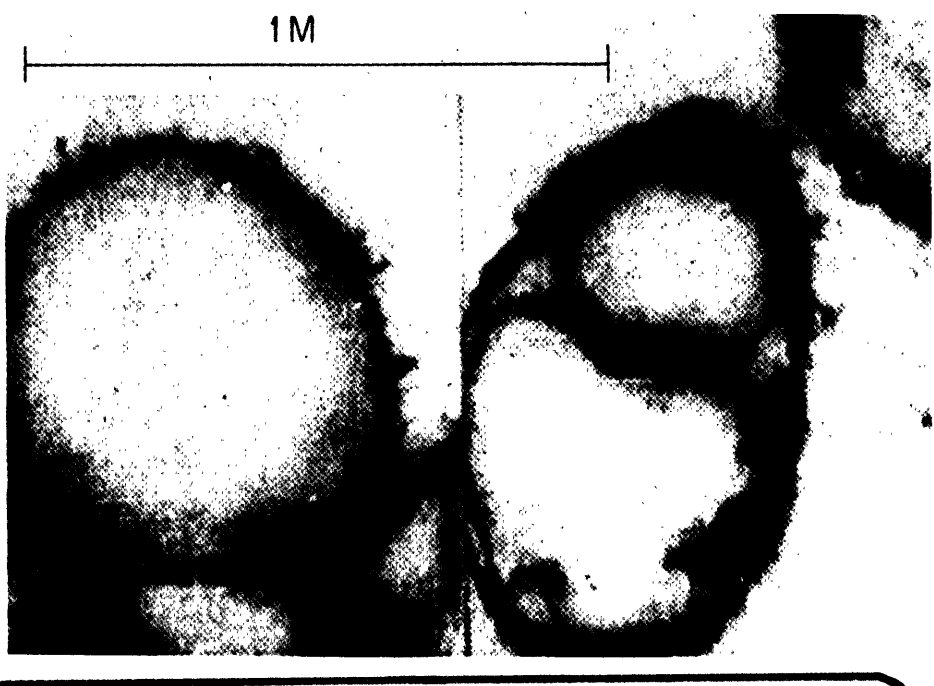
He says it 'tries to dispose of chance by denying it altogether. According to this conception only simple, direct necessity prevails in nature. That a particular pea-pod contains five peas and not four or six . . . There is no question of tracing the chain of causation in any of these cases; so we are just as wise in one as in another, the so-called necessity remains an empty phrase, and with it, chance also remains what it was before.'

Chance

The relationship between necessary and chance processes in nature is brought out in discussing the origins of life.

In the first article on the

Arrow indicates the protein-fat membrane of a bacterium.



SCIENTIFIC WORLD

The origins of life

Coacervate droplets formed during the synthesis of DNA-like material.

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From a SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

origin of life it was shown that by the intervention of ultraviolet radiation, X-rays, gamma rays and localized heating by volcanoes into a primitive atmosphere containing hydrogen compounds, conditions which necessarily prevailed at that time produced a random assortment of more complex chemicals such as amino acids (the building units of protein) and the building units of the genetic material DNA.

Further mixing would necessarily give rise to small proteins under certain conditions.

In other words, as Engels says:

'The accidental is necessary, that necessity determines itself as chance, and, on the other

hand, this chance is rather absolute necessity.' (Engels, 'Dialectics of Nature').

The mixing of these small 'chains' in the conditions which prevailed in the primordial soup of the oceans would give rise to more complex chemical systems.

It has been shown that on the surface of water, closed bubbles contained within a protein-fat coat will arise when air blows across the surface of the water on which there is a protein fat film. The coat will also act as a selective barrier, allowing certain chemicals through and stopping others.

Biologists were quick to note that the coat on these bubbles was very similar to

the cell membrane of living organisms and it was soon revealed that proteins, nucleic acids (like DNA), carbohydrates (starches) and fats could form these bubble-like structures called coacervates.

All this demonstrates the existence of extensive self-organization of the chemical complexes which could be formed under near-primitive conditions and which has to be taken into account when discussing the formation of the first 'living' organisms.

A living organism, however, is not just well organized. In it certain chemical processes and, more important, biological processes (e.g. growth and reproduction) take place in a certain time sequence.

The stable structure of an organism is produced by a process of continual change. Food and gases enter and leave the organism continuously. An analogy could be drawn between this state of affairs and Waterloo station at rush hour.

By that he means that those coacervates which could utilize the conditions in which they existed to their advantage—in the sense that they could grow again—would tend to be more successful than those that were less efficient.

Alteration

A chance alteration in the contents of a coacervate or its absorbing power could give rise necessarily to an improvement in its ability to carry out certain chemical reactions such as the production of protein or an oxidation reaction.

The latter type of reaction provides the system with energy and can be considered broadly analogous to the burning of coal in oxygen from the air. The building up of proteins and polynucleotides and the oxidation of complex substances are processes characteristic of living systems.

The addition of certain complex substances produced by chance in the primordial soup to coacervates at a certain stage led to a qualitative change in the properties of the complex proteins and polynucleotides.

The coacervates act as a system the properties of which are different from the properties of the individual elements. New laws of nature apply.

In the same way, the addition of heat to water leads to the production of steam which no longer has the properties of a liquid but those of a gas.

Packed

The station always appears packed with people but this state of affairs is maintained by people continually coming to the station while others leave.

Certain metabolic processes (chemical processes characteristic of living things) are common to all living organisms from bacteria to man.

They are the breaking down of complex chemicals such as starches and sugars to give energy for movement and chemical synthesis and synthesis of complex compounds such as proteins and polynucleotides (like DNA).

In suggesting how coacervate systems could have developed in the primordial soup of the oceans at the time when life is first known to have begun, one has to confront the problem of how self-maintaining, growing, reproducing 'living' systems could have developed.

Coacervates have been produced which react chemically with the external medium in which they are made, by absorbing substances. With coacervates made of certain complex chemical compounds, chemical reactions are made more easy by the fact that the compounds are concentrated by the coacervate.

Operation

In suggesting that natural selection of coacervates could occur in the conditions prevailing in the primordial soup we can see the operation of such a new law.

The addition or subtraction of certain substances from the medium or their chance formation in the coacervate would give the system a more or less efficient relationship with the surrounding environment allowing it to carry out new chemical reactions or the old chemical reactions more or less quickly.

Thus the system would grow or not grow.

Reproduction probably first occurred by the breaking of the coacervate into fragments by the action of wind or some other movement. The development of decreasing dependence on the environment would be favourable to a coacervate's survival.

The steps along the way from coacervates to organisms as we know them today can only be speculated upon with the present state of our knowledge of these processes.

However, the production of coenzymes and later enzymes (biological 'triggers'), the protein-producing system and heredity process which have been investigated in the last 20 years, can only be viewed with the method of dialectical materialism.

The confirmation of this is the evidence that even today the process of evolution through natural selection of enzymes continues.

This process takes place within the living system, in conflict with yet dependent on, its environment. It is governed by its own laws of development distinct from the laws of chemistry and yet born out of chemical reactions.

● To be continued next Thursday.

CLASS STRUGGLES IN AFRICA

By N. Makanda

MOZAMBIQUE AND ANGOLA

'Independence' dilemma for Portugal

THE KEY semi-colony of British imperialism is S Africa. It is by far the major trading, investment and profit-yielding semi-colony in Africa.

For Britain it is a third of Africa in these economic terms.

Strategically, for Britain, W Europe and the USA, it is of the utmost importance.

For this reason all imperialist countries dare not disturb the basic apartheid system fashioned long ago for S Africa by Britain in the Victorian era.

The verbal protestations against apartheid by the imperialists are designed not to replace apartheid, but simply to ease relations with those African 'independent' governments managing imperialist affairs in the rest of Africa.

PORTUGUESE POSITION

To maintain its S African bastion, imperialism has, with the active participation of the Voster regime, drawn the Protectorates and Malawi closer to direct S African supervision.

This control has gone so far that the S African frontier police, for practical purposes, operate

inside the borders, for example, of 'independent' Botswana.

They are able to arrest, kidnap and arraign in S Africa anti-apartheid refugees taking refuge in Botswana.

For Lesotho, which under Moeshoeshoe a century ago put up a long and heroic resistance against Victoria and the Boers, the S African police control is intertwined with persecution of anti-apartheid fighters by the Jonathan regime.

These activities relating to the neighbouring 'independent' states, are combined with a strategy of the 'white belt' protecting apartheid imperialism—namely S Rhodesia and the Portuguese colonies of Angola and Mozambique.

Sandwiched between the Portuguese, S Africans and Rhodesians is the active agent of apartheid, Hastings Banda, head of 'independent' Malawi.

The Portuguese situation is important and difficult for imperialism. Guinea is not a problem, probably not for Portugal itself, as long as the Portuguese imperialists can find a face-saving formula to 'grant' independence instead of admitting almost inevitable defeat by the African guerrilla armies in Guinea.

But Angola and Mozambique do not present such a relatively easy solution.

But the disadvantages are so high that the Portuguese regime can do no more than allow some preliminary kite-flying of the 'Beira idea'.

The major disadvantages are two-fold.

Firstly, even under the fraudulent 'assimilado' system, Portugal did not allow the rise and formation of a significant African petty bourgeoisie from which could arise an 'independent' government serving Portugal, as Kenya serves Britain, for instance.

'Majority rule' in Angola or Mozambique could become a social-political reality and not a fraud and is a double-edged sword for Lisbon, apart from frightening Britain and USA, whose eyes are always firstly on S Africa.

Secondly, the local 'White' population, being 99 per cent racist, could be as much of a problem to Lisbon as the OAS was in Algeria to de Gaulle and as Smith's UDI remains today.

'White' power exists anyway in Angola and Mozambique, but if it existed in the form of local 'White rule', it would upset the political balance both to the South and to the North of the Angola-Rhodesia-Mozambique 'Whites' and some 'concessions' to Africans.

In Beira, a Portuguese businessman has put forward such views without the usual interference by the Portuguese censors.

The plan has the advantage of trying to create a split in FRELIMO and the Angola guerrilla movements.

In relation to the economic size of Portugal, both are major colonies and sources of super-profits, even though a slice of these are taken off by Britain, the USA and other partners in Angola and Mozambique.

UDI PROBLEM

In the second place, there are some 600,000 Portuguese 'settlers' in Angola and Mozambique and of late there have been circles in high quarters of

This leaves Portugal with no options at all in the present situation.

The dilemma of Portuguese imperialism is not only that Angola and Mozambique are major colonies for Portugal, but also that they lie on the northern border of imperialism's greater semi-colony in Africa—apartheid S Africa.

So unless an incalculable element enters the scene, the struggle against Portugal cannot proceed along the lines of the 'independence' struggles in W, and E Africa simply by renewing and intensifying imperialism through the device of 'granted independence'.

DILEMMA

It is a 'bitter-end' struggle in Angola and Mozambique.

And the consequence of Portugal's dilemma and her allies is also the dilemma of the anti-Portuguese liberation movement.

There is no resolution of this dilemma other than the systematic construction of a party basing the anti-imperialist struggle for independence, land, democracy, education and nationalization on the tried, proven and totally practicable theory of the Permanent Revolution, first enunciated by Marx and Engels and later worked out by Leon Trotsky and acknowledged and approved by Lenin.

Of this theory much must necessarily be said in this column, not only for Angola and Mozambique, but for the rest of Africa as well.

NO OPTIONS

As a result the 'Beira plan' (reported to the writer by first-hand sources in Beira, Mozambique, in June 1970) has no chance of acceptance in Lisbon, Washington or London.

Explaining the electoral defeat

