

EDUARDO MONDLANE

M. P. Naicker

Editor, *Sechaba*, official organ of the African National Congress of South Africa

DR. EDUARDO MONDLANE, President of the Liberation Front of Mozambique (FRELIMO), who was assassinated on February 3, first came to public attention when he was expelled from South Africa in 1948 whilst studying at Witwatersrand University. The reasons for his expulsion were his activity as member of the African National Congress Youth League and in particular his leading role in the formation of the African Students' Association at the University.

Later Dr. Mondlane was thrown amongst revolutionary students in Lisbon and Paris. He completed his studies and became Professor of Sociology at Syracuse University, New York. There he met and married an American girl, Janet. They had three children.

Later he worked in the United Nations where he did much to expose conditions in the Portuguese colonies in hearings before the Trusteeship Committee.

In 1962, he abandoned teaching to assume leadership of the Mozambique revolution, after three clandestine Mozambican organisations—UDENAMO, UNAMI and MANU—were fused into a single organisation—the Mozambique Liberation Front (FRELIMO).

Under the leadership of Dr. Mondlane, FRELIMO has liberated one-fifth of the country and at present FRELIMO's fighting force is 15,000 strong. The liberated areas have seen the translation of the political and economic ideas of FRELIMO in action: an elaborate structure of democratic organs of self-government have been set up in all the liberated areas; an intensive educational programme has been embarked upon and agricultural changes are bringing in increased production to the peasants who enthusiastically support the revolution.

Little wonder that the Portuguese authorities, and their secret police—PIDE—in particular, described him as Portugal's most wanted man. There is little doubt who his murderers are. But if they think that the struggle in Mozambique will be halted because of the death of this people's leader, then they are in for a rude shock. The fighting people of Mozambique have been steeled in struggle and they will avenge the death of their leader in the battlefield.