

Slaying Threatens to Divide Mozambique Rebels

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DAR ES SALAAM, Tanzania, Feb. 5—The assassination of Dr. Eduardo Chivambo Mondlane in Dar es Salaam Monday is threatening to split the Mozambique Liberation Front, until now one of the most effective and hardest fighting liberation movements in Africa.

The whole shadowy front of guerrilla fighting between black Africa and the white-dominated countries of the worse turmoil than it is in now unless the shocked and disorganized forces of the Liberation Front, which is known as Frelimo, are able to set an example to others by swiftly reconciling their factions—those that look to Moscow for support and those that look to Peking.

Dr. Mondlane, a former teacher of anthropology at Syracuse University who would have been 49 in June had held his insurgent organization together by charm, intelligence and sheer political energy from the time it first went into action against Portuguese troops in Mozambique in September, 1964.

Backed by Many Sources

He drew moral and material support for Frelimo not only from the Russians, the Chinese and the Organization of African Unity but also from Sweden, Denmark, India, East Germany, Czechoslovakia and other countries.

Church groups in the United States and Britain supported him. Even some white Portuguese who were against their regime backed him and taught at the Mozambique Institute in Dar es Salaam until factional and tribal disputes boiled up in that school a year ago and caused it to be shut down.

The Tanzanian Government deported his white Portuguese teachers, regarding them as an unnecessary provocative element in Frelimo.

Makonde tribesmen in Frelimo, who bear the brunt of the fighting in Mozambique, raided Frelimo headquarters in Dar es Salaam at least twice last year, putting some of the officers in the hospital with knife wounds.

Frelimo Kept Intact

Despite the dangers to himself, Dr. Mondlane had kept Frelimo intact and in action. From bases in Tanzania guerrillas make forays across the Ruvuma River and along the slopes around the Makonde Plateau, and down Lake Malawi to plant mines out side garrisons in the northwestern part of Mozambique. New bases had just been opened in Zambia.

Six weeks ago Samuel Kanonbe, deputy military commander of the Frelimo forces, was shot dead by an assassin near Mtwara in southern Tanzania.

Dr. Mondlane constantly re-

ceived threats on his life, and so did his white American wife, Janet, who returned to Dar es Salaam this morning from Switzerland to attend her husband's funeral.

Dr. Mondlane managed to keep his two closest rivals, also bitter rivals of each other, working more or less together.

One is Uriah Simango, vice president of Frelimo, a bearded chubby, bespectacled former Protestant minister who maintained a close alliance with the Chinese Communists in their embassy here.

The other is Marcelino dos Santos, the organization's political secretary, a mulatto who had studied in Lisbon and come into contact with Portuguese Communists there. The company he generally kept in Dar es Salaam included Russians and East Germans.

How either of these men or



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Dr. Eduardo C. Mondlane

both together will be able to carry on Dr. Mondlane's ten-

uous policy of political detachment is not clear.

Their office on Nkrumah Street has been closed and both men have been out of sight, presumably in police custody with the rest of the Frelimo leadership, since midday Monday when Dr. Mondlane was killed.

The police now believe he was killed by a bomb that had been mailed to him. A messenger at Frelimo headquarters had picked up a package at the postoffice Monday morning and given it to Dr. Mondlane, who then, the messenger believes, put it into his briefcase.

The police think the bomb may have gone off when Dr. Mondlane opened the package after having settled back in his favorite chair in the beach house of a friend on the edge of town, where he went regularly to work undisturbed.

The police were still picking through the wreckage of splintered furniture, plaster and broken glass and one officer said they still had no real clue as to who might have been the

assassin. They would not say where the package had been mailed.

In town the police were still rounding up the last of the Frelimo people, lest open fighting break out among them again and spread to the rest of the liberation movements based in Dar es Salaam.

Exile groups from southern Africa are almost all split even now by their alignments either to the Russians or the Chinese. In almost every case the Chinese-aligned ones have less money to work with and are less active.