

# RENMUN VII

*Peace in Permanence*



March 5-6, 2022

**Chair Report**

## Chair Introduction

Dear delegates,

We are Coleman and Thomas, and we're honoured to be your chairs for the 7th iteration of RENMUN. The UN Security Council has a long history of resolving conflicts globally, having successfully intervened in conflicts across different continents since the council's creation in 1945. Being one of the main organs of the United Nations, the UN Security Council looks to maintain international peace and security, and the Historical Security Council is no different in this regard. While the topics of discussion and debate are set in the past, the principles of peace and settling disputes between countries should still be closely adhered to.

However, with HSC being set in the past, it does come with a few caveats. Delegates should be always mindful about the cut-off dates for each topic and ensure that research and information they find on the topics be within the dates provided. This is a feature wholly unique to HSC, and while it might seem like a hindrance, it only serves to enhance discussion and debate by putting delegates directly into the shoes of those who need to deal with the immediate fallout of the topic at hand.

We look forward to seeing the fruits of your research and preparation. If you have any questions regarding the council or its procedures, please feel free to contact any one of us. Best of luck and hope to see all of you soon.

Best Regards,

Head Chair Thomas Ng ([thomasng2023@cdnis.edu.hk](mailto:thomasng2023@cdnis.edu.hk))

Deputy Chair Coleman Hong ([colemanhong.dbs@gmail.com](mailto:colemanhong.dbs@gmail.com))

## Cutoff Date: 1986 October 20th

### The Mozambican Civil War

The Mozambican Civil War was a conflict lasting from 1976 to 1992, spanning over a total of 16 years. However, the root of the civil war extended far beyond 1976, with leading causes of the war being able to be traced to the 1960s during the Portuguese Colonial War. Prior to its independence, Mozambique was a Portuguese colony, with the colony being often designated as Portuguese East Africa. It was colonised in 1505, and remained under Portuguese control until 1975, after which Mozambique gained independence, and the resulting power vacuum from the departure of the Portuguese sparked the decades-long civil war. During this civil war, the Mozambican President died in a plane crash on October 19th, 1986, further destabilising the conflict. Despite being 30 years in the past, the delegates of RENMUN VII will be taking a step into the past, and exploring a solution that could have avoided the death and destruction that was caused by the civil war.

### Key Terms

| Term    | Definition  |
|---------|---|
| FRELIMO | Front for the Liberation of Mozambique. Acronym derived from Portuguese, was founded in 1962 fighting for independence of Mozambique from Portuguese colonial rule. Has support of the USSR and China, and adopted Marxism-Leninism as its official ideology. Following Mozambican independence, FRELIMO became the sole party in the new one-party system. |
| RENAMO  | RENAMO, or the Mozambican National  |

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|           | Resistance, is an anti-communist political movement and militant organisation which was the main belligerent against FRELIMO during the civil war. Throughout the war, it had the support of Israel, and intermittent aid from other countries such as Zimbabwe Rhodesia, Malawi, West Germany.  |
| Communism | An philosophical, socioeconomic, and political ideology characterised by public ownership of the means of production. It is most often associated with the philosophies of Karl Marx, which place a heavy emphasis on creating a classless society, and spawn an utopia where people worked to their abilities and distributed the wealth equally, with the economy controlled under the government and everyone relinquishing their property to the state. Same doctrine adopted by FRELIMO, and implemented in the USSR and China. |

## Background Information

Prior to the late 19th century, European control of Africa remained near the coastlines and islands of Africa. Towards the end of the late 19th century, what became known as the Scramble for Africa occurred, where a majority of the land was seized by imperial powers, mainly by France, the United Kingdom, and Portugal. These empires held on to their territories within Africa until the 1950s, where the first efforts of decolonisation from colonial powers post-second world war were seen in the independence of various Italian, British, and other colonies. Decolonisation of Portugal's colonies would begin in 1961, and evolve into a multi-national conflict known as the Portuguese Colonial War, spanning 13 years costing over 110,000 civilian casualties, and at least 50,000 military casualties. Among the countries involved would be Mozambique, where the war for independence began in 1964 and lasted 10 years until 1974.

Prior to being colonised by Portugal, Mozambique was a region of various tribal kingdoms, before Portuguese explorers reached Eastern Africa towards the end of the 15th century and the beginning of the 16th century. In 1505, Mozambique was officially incorporated into the Portuguese Empire as a colony. This status as a colony remained until 1951, when Mozambique was redesignated as an overseas province, a

status which lasted until 1972, when Mozambique became a State of the Portuguese Empire.

Mozambique began its war of independence in 1964, and following the resolution of the war in 1976, a socialist party, FRELIMO (Marxist Front for the Liberation of Mozambique), succeeded the old Portuguese colonial government. However, there was immediate opposition to the FRELIMO, most notably in the RENAMO (Mozambican National Resistance), the main anti-communist insurgency in the civil war. Throughout the duration of the war, both sides have been accused of committing war crimes, human rights violations, and atrocities. Reports of both sides of the conflict emerged revealing indiscriminate murder of civilians, unlawful conscription, rape, and other a whole host of atrocities, which sponsoring nations seemed to turn a blind eye to. FRELIMO, being a communist party, has the full support of the USSR. On the other hand, RENAMO has the support of South Africa. Despite South Africa being in support of the anti-communist insurgency, advances were being Mozambican and South African relations, most notably in the Nkomati Accord in 1984, which was an agreement on non-aggression between Mozambique and South Africa. Despite the progression in Mozambican-South African relations, South Africa continued to fund the RENAMO in their anti-communist insurgency against the officially recognised Mozambican government.

A major event in the civil war occurred in the death of Mozambican President, Samora Machel, in October of 1986. The presidential aircraft carrying Machel went down at the Mozambican-South African border. The cause of this crash remains highly contested amongst FRELIMO and RENAMO.

## **Potential Clashes**

### **South Africa and Mozambique**

South Africa, being a strong supporter of the RENAMO, may face some diplomatic issues with Mozambique in any negotiation for peace, as South Africa is involved in both ends of the conflict. Especially with the recent plane crash of the Mozambican president, South Africa is in a precarious position in negotiations. Furthermore, with South Africa being a neighbouring country of Mozambique, it puts them at risk of spillover violence in the event that Mozambique's civil war intensifies. As a result, it is likely in South Africa's best interests to resolve the situation with Mozambique.

### **United States and USSR**

The United States and USSR inherently have diametrically opposing points of view, especially in regards to economic and general ideologies, which is arguably the driving force behind the Cold War. With Mozambique being in a power struggle between communist and anti-communist entities, it is in both the US and USSR's

best interests to see to it that this situation is resolved in ways that are in favour of their respective standpoints. Despite the 1980s already showing decline in tensions between the two countries, tensions between the US and USSR still remain and will play an influential role in resolving this crisis.

## Civilian Displacement and Relocation

The Mozambican Civil War has led to a massive displacement of the Mozambican people, fleeing from the violence that has perpetrated the country for the last 4 years. Any and all military intervention needs to carefully consider the safety of the civilians, and the relocation of them in the event any further displacement of them will occur from foreign aid.

## Prosecution of War Crimes and Human Rights Violations

With both sides being guilty of committing war crimes and violations of the people, the question of punishment and prosecution of these war crimes comes into consideration. With perpetrators being two respected parties within Mozambique, if they are prosecuted, it brings up two main questions: how these parties would be prosecuted, and whether or not punishment would introduce a power vacuum in the region due to a lack of trust in the parties by the people of Mozambique.

## Key Stakeholders

| Stakeholder   | Involvement with the Issue  |
|---------------|---|
| USSR          | The USSR is a major sponsor of FRELIMO, especially with FRELIMO being a communist party and fitting with the USSR's policy of spreading their communist doctrine. Many of the political leaders of FRELIMO were trained by the USSR, and represent the USSR in their best interests.  |
| South Africa  | South Africa, sharing a border with Mozambique, has to take the Mozambican Civil War into heavy consideration to prevent any excessive violence from spilling across the border. In light of the recent plane crash of the Mozambican President over the South African-Mozambican border, it places South Africa into an even more precarious position. |
| United States | The United States has a relationship with Mozambique starting back in 1975, and maintained that relationship in good faith in spite of the new government being communist, up until 1977, when it withdrew support for foreign aid on the grounds of human rights   |

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|  | concerns. However, in years past that, relations have been rebuilt between the US and Mozambique. In order to maintain that relationship, the US would be at a crossroads in terms of how to stop a conflict while acting against communist interests of the Mozambican government in line with the US' anti-communist doctrine. |
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## Possible Solutions

Possible solutions include deploying a UN Peacekeeping Force to the region, which is something the UN has previously done with other affairs, with notable examples being in the Congo Crisis, Yemen Observation Mission, UNDOF (Israel and Syria, Yom Kippur War). Typical military intervention would require an approval by the UN Security Council, particularly of the P5 nations, as any UN resolution would require the approval of all P5 nations, as well as a majority of the member nations of the UNSC. It is also important to note that typically with UN Peacekeeping Forces, there is a large-scale international contribution/cooperation required in order to even deploy the Peacekeeping Force. However, these militaristic solutions may seek to cause even more destabilisation in the region than there currently is, and as a result, may not be the best option. There is no guarantee that the Peacekeeping Force being deployed will even be a completely effective solution, as seen in Peacekeeping missions such as that in Israel/Palestine, which has done little to actually stop the conflict between the two nations.

An alternative to a military intervention by the UN would be to negotiate a peace treaty to be signed by the warring parties. In this scenario however, countries need to keep the legality of their actions in mind as they cannot violate state sovereignty. Furthermore, countries must also remember the global context that is faced with the question of Mozambique, especially in regards to the leading communist party and member states which may be acting in interest/against the ideals of the leading party.

## Past Actions

Past actions in attempting to alleviate tensions in Mozambique include aid being sent from various nations such as the USSR, France, and UK, to FRELIMO, while RENAMO was also being aided by countries such as South Africa and the US. However, there was little international intervention in directly stopping the war at the time, with a few notable exceptions from Zimbabwe and Romania, who both deployed troops in support of FRELIMO. The UN itself has had little to no involvement in Mozambique throughout the course of the civil war, it was only prior to the civil war that the UN had pressured Portugal to decolonise Mozambique, having stated their support for FRELIMO's liberation efforts and urged cessation of support for Portugal. In November of 1972, the UN Security Council adopted Resolution 322, which affirmed the UN's recognition of the revolutionary movements within Portuguese colonies as the official state representatives, calling upon Portugal to cease all military operations and recognise the self-determination movements. Past the recognition of Mozambique's independence, there was no direct involvement by the UN.

## Guiding Questions

- To what extent is international action warranted in stopping the civil war?
- Is there one particular side to blame?
- How should the international community go with handling the recent death of the Mozambican president?
- How much international action is necessary in stopping this civil war? Are militaristic methods required, or can simple diplomacy suffice?
- What would be the logistics of organising an international military response to a conflict where numerous countries have differing ideologies?

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