



MOZAMBIQUE

BACKGROUND NOTES

PROFILE

GEOGRAPHY

AREA: 303,769 square miles (about twice the size of California). CAPITAL: Lourenco Marques (pop. 383,775). OTHER CITIES: Beria (pop. 115,000).

PEOPLE

POPULATION: 8.98 million (1973 est.). ANNUAL GROWTH RATE: 2.1%. DENSITY: 28.8 per square mile. ETHNIC GROUPS: Portuguese, various African tribal groups. RELIGIONS: Catholic, Protestant, Islam, animist. LANGUAGES: Portuguese (official), several African languages, English. LITERACY: 20%.

GOVERNMENT

TYPE: Overseas Province of Portugal with title of "State." BRANCHES: Executive—Governor General (Head of Government) appointed from Portugal; Overseas Minister. Legislative—unicameral Legislative Assembly. Judicial—based on Portuguese law.

ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISIONS: 10 Districts.

FLAG: that of Portugal—a narrow green band along the staff and a broader red band. Centered on the dividing line is the Portuguese coat of arms surrounded by a golden sphere.

ECONOMY

GNP: \$2 billion (1972). GROWTH RATE: 13%. PER CAPITA INCOME: \$230.

TRADE: Exports—\$169 million (1971): cashews \$38 million; cotton \$24 million; sugar \$21 million; tea \$10 million; copra \$9 million. Partners—Portugal \$60.5 million; U.S. \$21.8 million; South Africa \$15.2 million; India \$11.7 million. Imports—\$354 million. Partners—Portugal \$89.6 million; South Africa \$50 million; West Germany \$28.6 million; U.K. \$27 million; U.S. \$24.9 million; Japan \$18.6 million; Iraq \$17.1 million.

AGRICULTURE: arable land 34%; cultivated 2%; pasture 6%. Products—cashews, cotton, sugar, copra, tea. Livestock 2,360,000 head.

INDUSTRIES: agricultural processing, consumer goods.

NATURAL RESOURCES: coal, iron ore, tantalite, fluorite, hydroelectric potential.

OFFICIAL EXCHANGE RATE: 27.25 esuodos = U. S. \$1.

MEMBERSHIP IN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS: none.

ECONOMIC AID RECEIVED (1971): U.S.—none; most external finance assistance comes through Portugal and no total figures are available.

GEOGRAPHY

Mozambique, a territory on the southeastern coast of Africa, is an Overseas Province of Portugal with denomination as "State," and sometimes is called Portuguese East Africa. It is bounded on the north by Tanzania; on the west by Malawi, Zambia, and Southern Rhodesia; on the south by the Republic of South Africa and Swaziland; and on the east by the Indian Ocean's Mozambique Channel which separates the African mainland from the Malagasy Republic.

The territory is broadly divisible into lowlands and uplands. The lowlands, comprising about 44 percent of the total area, consist of coastal areas with altitudes of up to 600 feet above sea level. The central uplands (17 percent of the area) are formed by plateaus between 600 and 1,800 feet above sea level. The high plateau zone (26 percent of the territory) ranges from 1,800 to 3,000 feet high. Finally, the mountainous area lies along the western frontier. Africa's fourth longest river, the Zambezi, divides Mozambique in half.

Climate varies from tropical to subtropical in all areas except the high plateau zone and the mountainous area. During the rainy season (November-March/April) warmer temperatures prevail. Rainfall is irregular and some districts, particularly in the south, are subject to severe droughts and floods. Rivers are numerous but, with a few exceptions, waterflow is highly variable.

PEOPLE

The average population density is 28.8 persons per square mile with greater concentration in the northern and southern coastal regions.

The African tribal groups in Mozambique are of Bantu stock. Tribal divisions are quite sharply drawn—each has its own dialect (or in some cases its own language)—and no extensive unity has ever existed among them. Of the major tribal groups, the Tsonga (Thonga) and Changones are located in the south; the Sena and Manica are in the center; the Nianja in the northwest; the Macuas cover a broad belt across the north; and the Makondes are in the northeast spilling across into Tanzania.



There are an estimated 200,000 white Portuguese settlers in the territory.

Portuguese is the unifying language, although many Africans have learned some English while on work contracts in Southern Rhodesia and South Africa.

Generally speaking, Mozambicans tend to be more advanced culturally in the south. The northern tribes have been more isolated from European influence; many of them are animists or practice fetishism, although Islam has made considerable inroads. Catholic missions have been active in Mozambique since its discovery by the Portuguese, and Protestant mission work has been undertaken in the 20th century.

HISTORY

The history of Mozambique is closely linked to the early voyages of the Portuguese navigators on the ocean route to India. Vasco da Gama explored the coast of Mozambique 6 years after Columbus discovered America. He found Arab trading settlements already established along the coast. Beginning in 1500 Portuguese trading posts and forts in Mozambique became regular ports of call on the new route to the East. The geographic delimitation of the territory of Mozambique and its existence as an economic and administrative unit under Portuguese rule began in the 16th century when the hinterland was penetrated by traders, missionaries, and prospectors. However, for many years the major Portuguese effort and attention was devoted to the lucrative trade with India and to the colonization of Brazil, factors which delayed the development of Mozambique. Slavery was practiced until abolished by international agreement in the 1800's.

When Africa was partitioned at the Berlin West Africa Congress (1884-85), the French and Germans recognized Portuguese supremacy in Mozambique. At the end of World War I, the Portuguese added a small piece of German East Africa to the territory.

GOVERNMENT

By a 1952 amendment to Portugal's Constitution the colony of Mozambique became an Overseas Province of Portugal, and as such it is considered by the Portuguese as an integral part of Portugal. Considerable control over Mozambican affairs is exercised by the Central Government (Council of Ministers, or cabinet) at Lisbon through the Overseas Ministry, which is headed by an official of cabinet rank. This official is advised by the Overseas Council composed of members representing metropolitan and overseas interests. Mozambique is presently represented in the 130-man Portuguese National Assembly by seven delegates, however, an as yet unknown number of seats will be apportioned in the assembly elections scheduled for October 1973. Its judicial system is based on Portuguese law.

The Government of Mozambique is led by a Governor General nominated by the Portuguese Overseas Ministry and appointed by the Council of Ministers. The Governor General's term is for 4 years but may be extended 2 years at a time. He has extensive powers and responsibilities for administering the state. He is responsible for the appointment of much of the state bureaucracy; he is the financial authority, controlling expenditures and preparing the state budget; and he is generally responsible for the care and protection of the population.

The Governor General is assisted in his executive duties by a Secretary General and eight State Secretaries. The eight state secretaries are responsible for numerous services and institutes which include regular government agencies. Together, the Secretary General and the State Secretaries form the Council of Government. The Governor General is also assisted by a Consultative Council made up of 21 members, 13 of whom are elected by various corporate groups.

In his legislative capacity the Governor General is assisted by a partly elected consultative Legislative Assembly. The Legislative Assembly is composed of 50 members and is presided over by the Governor General. Less than half of the elected members are elected by direct suffrage of qualified voters.

For purposes of administration the territory is divided into 10 Districts, with local Governors advised by district boards and administrators of posts. In January 1974, the District of Mozambique will be divided into two new Districts, bringing the total to 11.

The Districts are subdivided into two categories of smaller units; those based on cities or towns known as concelhos, and less developed rural units known as circunscrições. Further subdivision into administrative posts and finally local village regedorias completes the governing structure. The organization of the individual tribes, which generally corresponds to traditional arrangements, has no formal relationship to the modern system of government in the territory. However, native chiefs are considered to be representatives of the Government in the areas under their jurisdiction. They hold limited administrative powers and are paid salaries by the state for carrying out their duties as ordinary civil servants. In this manner Portuguese administration is close to and influences directly all activities at the tribal level.

POLITICAL CONDITIONS

The Portuguese territories in Africa (Mozambique, Angola, Portuguese Guinea) are among the few remaining European-ruled areas on that continent. As other countries in Africa have become independent, attention has focused on the remaining. Armed conflicts in Angola, Mozambique, and Portuguese Guinea have increased the pressure on Portugal, and Portuguese rule in Africa has been the subject of study and debate by the Security

Council, General Assembly, and committees and specialized agencies of the United Nations. The United Nations regards the Portuguese territories as non-self-governing areas and thus believes Portugal has international obligations, under article 73(e) of the U.N. Charter, to submit statistical and other information on conditions in the territories.

Since the fall of 1961 Portugal has announced various measures of reform for its African territories. Some have been aimed at alleviating the social and political conditions of the Africans (doing away with compulsory labor; expanding school, health, and public welfare facilities; granting citizenship to all peoples of the territory); others are intended to bolster ties between the overseas territories and the metropole.

Principal authority for Mozambique remains with the Central Government at Lisbon. The system of government, like that of Portugal, is based on the corporate state. There is no parliamentary opposition; the only political party permitted in Mozambique is the National Popular Action (Accção Nacional Popular).

In July 1971 the Portuguese Legislature approved a constitutional amendment which has given more decisionmaking power to the overseas governments. Under this plan, basic policy control, national defense, foreign affairs, fiscal control, and civil rights would continue as Lisbon's preserve. While the reform may represent a first step toward eventual autonomy for the territories, the pace and character of such change remain to be seen. Meanwhile, Portugal will remain the target of international criticism for its continued rule over Mozambique.

The independent African states and the Organization of African Unity (OAU) have given the OAU's African Liberation Committee responsibility for assisting nationalist movements in European-ruled territories of southern Africa. The committee has provided financial aid to Mozambique's nationalist movements as well as assistance in the training and arming of guerrilla forces.

Insurgency began in northern Mozambique in September 1964. The most active fighting has been in the Mueda Plateau area across the border from Tanzania, in the hills and sparsely populated areas east of Lake Nyasa, and, more recently, in the northwestern District of Tete. Portugal's response has been a blend of military measures, administrative reforms, and expanded efforts to develop Mozambique's economy and civil service.

Most of the guerrillas are affiliated with the Mozambique Liberation Front (FRELIMO) which has headquarters at Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. FRELIMO has the support of the OAU's African Liberation Committee. A second nationalist group, the Mozambique Revolutionary Committee (COREMO), was organized in 1965 and maintains an office at Lusaka, Zambia.

ECONOMY

Mozambique has an undeveloped and largely agricultural economy, with a large part of its population practicing subsistence farming. The leading products in 1972, measured in terms of export values, were cashews and cashew kernels, cotton, sugar, copra, tea, refined petroleum and timber. Manufacturing is of growing importance. Industrial production increased by 9 percent in 1971 and now accounts for 20 percent of the gross national product (GNP). It includes the processing of agricultural products, the manufacture of textiles and other consumer goods, and the production of cement and other construction materials. Mozambique has a wide variety of mineral resources and mining will no doubt grow in importance. Coal is currently the leading mineral produced in the country. Although Mozambique produces no oil, it does have a substantial refining industry to fill local demand and provide exports.

Mozambique's economy has grown steadily at about 5 percent a year in real terms over the past decade. In 1972, GNP was roughly \$2 billion, or about \$230 per capita. In recent years, Portugal has placed greater emphasis on economic development of the state. The Third Six-Year Development Plan (1968-1973) called for a GNP growth rate of 7 percent a year and an aggregate investment of \$586 million. Investment under the plan covers major projects only and does not include small-scale industry or agriculture. The plan is funded by Portuguese state and private investment. The estimated \$350 million cost of the Cabora Bassa project is not included in the Plan's projected investment expenditures either. This project consists of building a huge dam and hydroelectric complex in the Cabora Bassa Gorge of the Zambezi River. The dam will be a 520-foot-high double arch with an underground powerhouse which will have an initial installed capacity of 1,800 megawatts. (It will be the fourth largest such project in the world, the largest in Africa). Subsequent stages of development could raise the dam's capacity to 4,000 megawatts. The dam is being built by a South African-led consortium which includes Portuguese, French, and German firms. There is no U.S. economic assistance program in operation in the state of Mozambique.

In 1971 Mozambique's imports totaled \$354 million and its exports were valued at \$169 million. Portugal and South Africa remain Mozambique's principal trading partners. In 1971, the U.S. received \$21.8 million in Mozambique goods. By far the largest item was cashews, totaling \$15 million in value. The U.S. exports to Mozambique in 1971 totaled \$24.9 million and included aviation equipment and parts (\$7.4 million), tractors (\$1.8 million), and wheat (\$1.8 million).

A major problem for Mozambique's economy is the consistently large deficits in its foreign trade account which have only partially been offset by earnings from invisibles, mostly from the transit trade. Receipts from transit services traditionally supply one-fourth to one-third of

Mozambique's total earnings. In 1971 the trade deficit narrowed slightly as the rate of growth in imports declined, while net receipts from invisibles increased almost 20 percent above 1970. However, Mozambique still relies on imports of machinery and equipment and for a variety of consumer goods. Their value is hardly covered by that of Mozambique's exports, mostly agricultural products. Mozambique's deficit trade problem has been aggravated by the significant reduction of transport revenues previously derived from Zambian trade. As a result of a dispute between Rhodesia and Mozambique in early 1973, Zambian trade is being rerouted through Tanzania rather than through Mozambique.

The Mozambique ordinary budget estimate for calendar year 1973 is balanced at \$367.6 million, almost 17 percent higher than that of 1972. This represents unusually large annual increase which may reflect in part less conservative methods of estimating revenue and expenses. The extraordinary budget consists of two parts, the development plan and a miscellany of government building programs, police and security subsidies, all others. The extraordinary budget totals \$61 million, of which 68 percent goes to development.

FOREIGN RELATIONS

Portugal's policy is aimed at maintaining the territorial integrity of the nation which, constitutionally, includes the metropole and the overseas territories. Government statements emphasize the goal of creating a multiracial, pluricultural society. At the United Nations Portugal maintains that the situations in Mozambique and the other Portuguese territories in Africa are domestic matters outside the competence of the international organization and that the insurgencies in the territories are stimulated, organized, and supported from abroad.

U. S. POLICY

The U.S. Government's attitude toward Portugal's African possessions was set forth in a Department of State policy statement on November 10, 1972: "U.S. policy towards Portuguese Africa... supports the right of all peoples to self-determination. We believe Portugal's ability to accelerate the advancement of the peoples of its African territories both politically and economically ultimately will determine what role Portugal will continue to have in the African continent. Portugal's official policy of racial equality, in contrast to the institutionalized racial discrimination of South Africa, is an important factor which will have a bearing in determining this future role, and hopefully will help ease tensions in the area. Supporting self-determination and the peaceful resolution of political disputes we have prohibited the export of U.S. arms for use in the Portuguese territories since the outbreak of the first armed insurgency in Angola in 1961."

Because of the rapidity of change in Africa since 1960 the United States believes that Portugal can play a future role in the continent if it undertakes an accelerated program of reform designed to advance all the peoples of its African territories toward the exercise of self-determination. The United States has supported efforts in the United Nations aimed at encouraging this and has opposed resolutions which it considered extreme and not conducive to a peaceful settlement of the problem. It has repeatedly taken the position that sound political, economic, social, and educational institutions are important factors in the achievement of genuine self-rule and that they are essential for long-term stability. It has encouraged Portugal to develop such institutions in its overseas territories.

PRINCIPAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS

Territorial Officials

Governor General—Manuel Pimentel Pereira dos Santos
 Provincial Secretary General—Colonel David Teixeira Ferreira
 Provincial Secretary of Health and Assistance—Dr. Antonio Augusto Fernandes Tender
 Provincial Secretary of Education—Dr. Adelino Augusto Marques de Almeida
 Provincial Secretary of Commerce and Industry—Dr. Jose Antumes de Silva
 Provincial Secretary of Agriculture—José Alberto Lemos Martins Santareno
 Provincial Secretary of Public Works—Lourival Ferreira Vilela
 Provincial Secretary for Planning and Finance—Antonio Manuel de Assuncao Braz Teixeira
 Provincial Secretary for Labor—Raul Wahmon Correia Pinto
 Provincial Secretary for Communication—Lieutenant Colonel José Eduardo Vilar Queiroz
 Military Commander in Chief—Gen. Kaulza de Arriaga
 Naval Commander—Rear Admiral Jaime Lopes
 Air Force Commander—Brigadier Gen. Manuel Diego Neto
 Rector of the University of Lourenco Marques—Dr. José Alberto de Gama Fernandes de Carvalho

Metropolitan Officials

President—Americo Deus Rodriguez THOMAZ
 President, Council of Ministers (Prime Minister)—Marcello José das Neves CAETANO
 Foreign Minister—Rui PATRICIO
 Minister of Overseas—Joaquim Moreira da SILVA CUNHA
 Ambassador to the U.S.—Joao Hall TAEMIDO

The Portuguese Embassy in the United States is located at 2125 Kalorama Road N.W., Washington, D.C. 20008.

PRINCIPAL U. S. OFFICIALS

Consul General—Hendrik van Oss
Consul—Hugh C. MacDougall
Vice Consul—Theodore Dawson

The U.S. Consulate General in Mozambique is located at No. 35 Rua Salazar, 2^o-andar, Lourenco Marques.

READING LIST

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE PUBLICATION 7965
Revised July 1973

Office of Media Services
Bureau of Public Affairs

★ U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE : 1973 O - 545-123 (2117)

For sale by the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402
Price 20 cents (single copy). Subscription Price: \$14.50 per year; \$3.65 additional for foreign mailing.