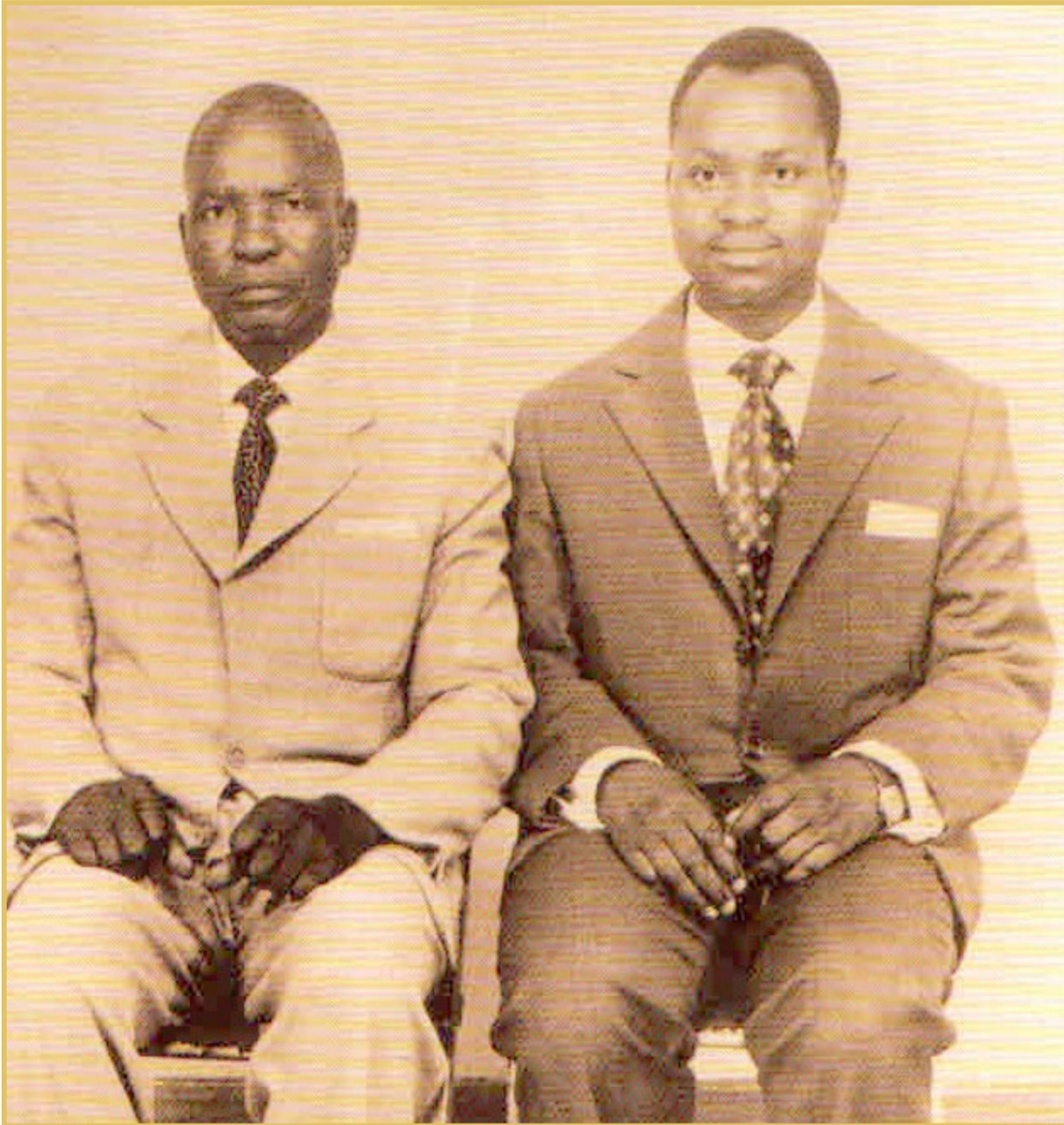


# Samora Machel's youth & formative years: 1933 - 1962

## RURAL CHILDHOOD



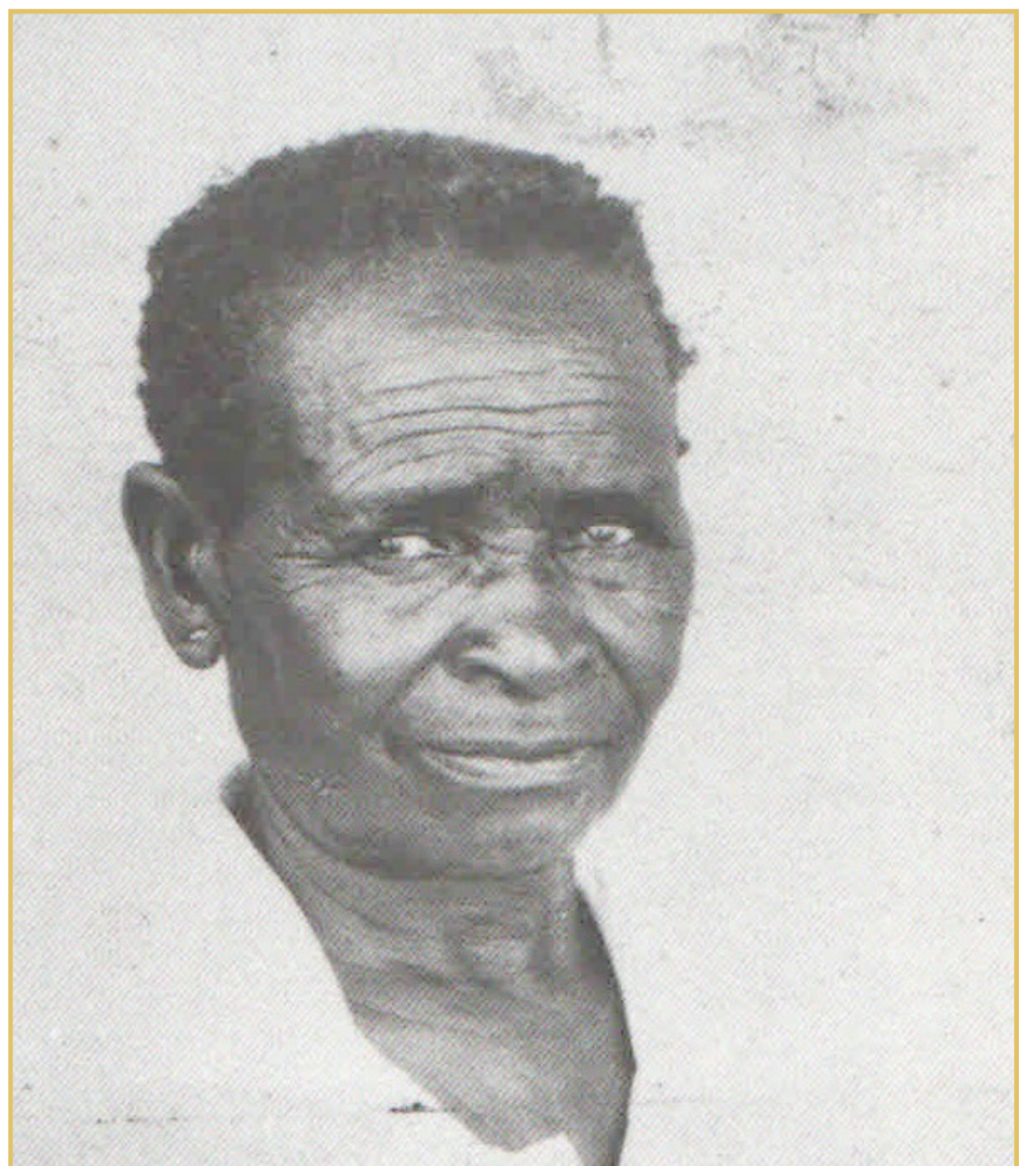
Samora Machel and his father, Mandhande Moises Machel

Samora Moises Machel was born on 29 September 1933 in the village of Chilembene, situated in the fertile flood plain of the Limpopo River in Gaza Province.

In this rural environment, the way of life centered on farming.

His family were successful African farmers, owing large tracts of land and more than 400 heads of cattle.

However, in his childhood Samora Machel experienced first hand how under Portuguese rule African farmers such as his father were forced to accept lower prices for their crops than white farmers, to grow labor-intensive cotton and to pay high taxes. In the 1950s, many African farmers lost their land to make way for white farms.



Samora Machel's mother, Gugiye Thema Dzimba

# Samora Machel's youth & formative years: 1933 - 1962

## NATIONALISM AND EARLY ANTI-COLONIAL STRUGGLE

From an early age, Samora was exposed to the nationalist cause. Samora's paternal grand father had been an active supporter of the Emperor of Gaza, Ngungunhana, who led the Ronga Revolt in 1894-1895 against the Portuguese colonial authorities.



Ngungunhana: The Emperor of Gaza

Known as the 'Lion of Gaza', Ngungunhana is one of the most famous icons of the struggle against Portuguese colonialism in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century.



Ngungunhana surrenders to the Portuguese military commander, 1895 (detail from a frieze in the Fortaleza of Maputo)

After his defeat and capture by the Portuguese army in 1895, Ngungunhana died in exile on the Açores archipelago in 1906.

Deportation was a common punishment for insurgence and failure to pay taxes.

Several of Samora's maternal relatives were deported to Angola and São Tomé, where they were put to work in plantations.

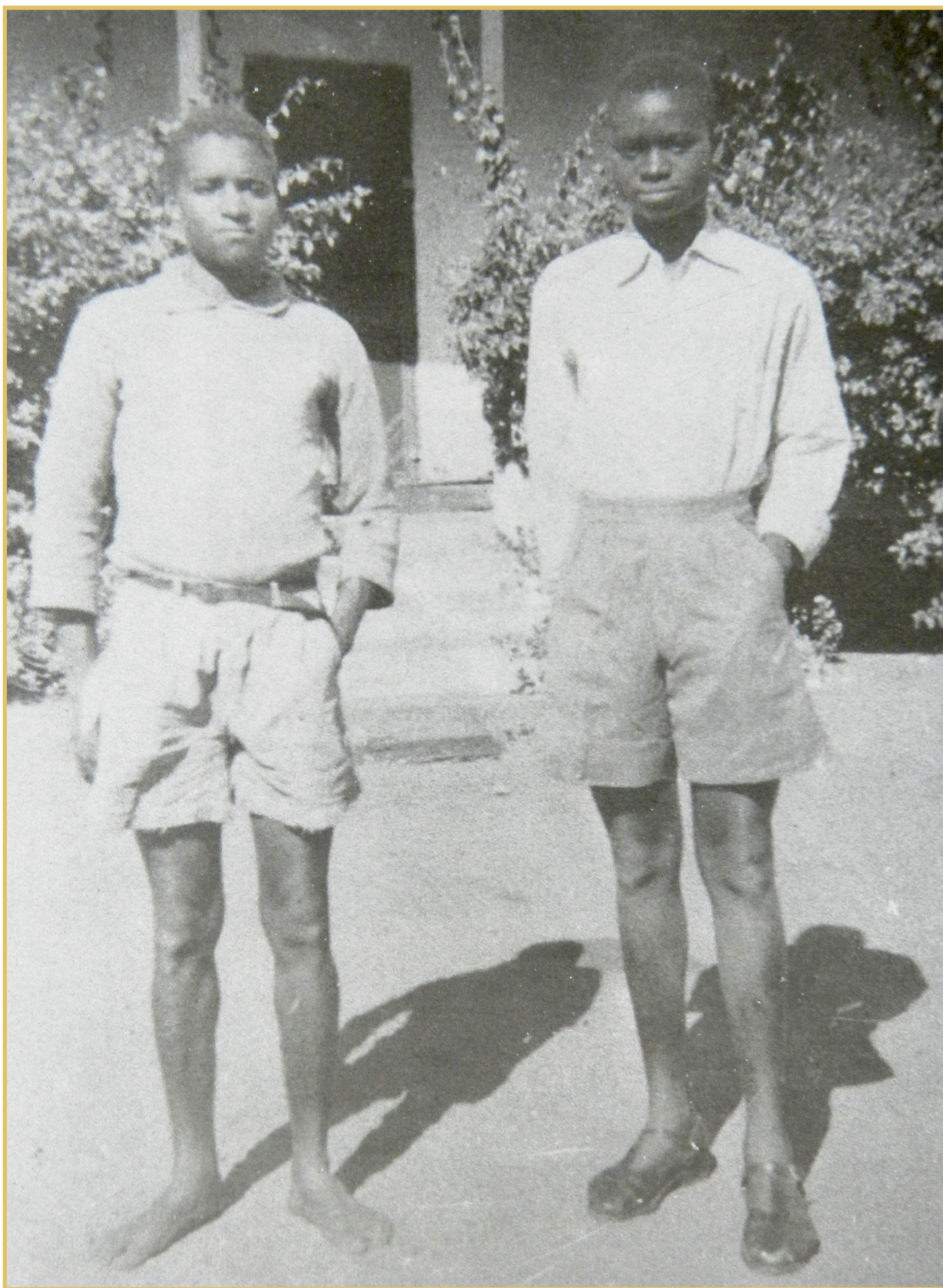


Ngungunhana and his royal wives

## Samora Machel's youth & formative years: 1933 - 1962

### EDUCATION

Most of the successful African farmers sent their children – usually only boys – to mission schools, which were the only source of formal education for Africans. Samora Machel started school in 1942 attending a Catholic mission school where he was educated in the Portuguese language and culture and had to work in the mission's fields. Samora only completed fourth grade. The missionaries offered him an opportunity to study at the seminary, but Samora was not interested in becoming a priest and opted to become a nurse instead.



Samora Machel with a fellow student at Messano St Paul's Mission (1946)

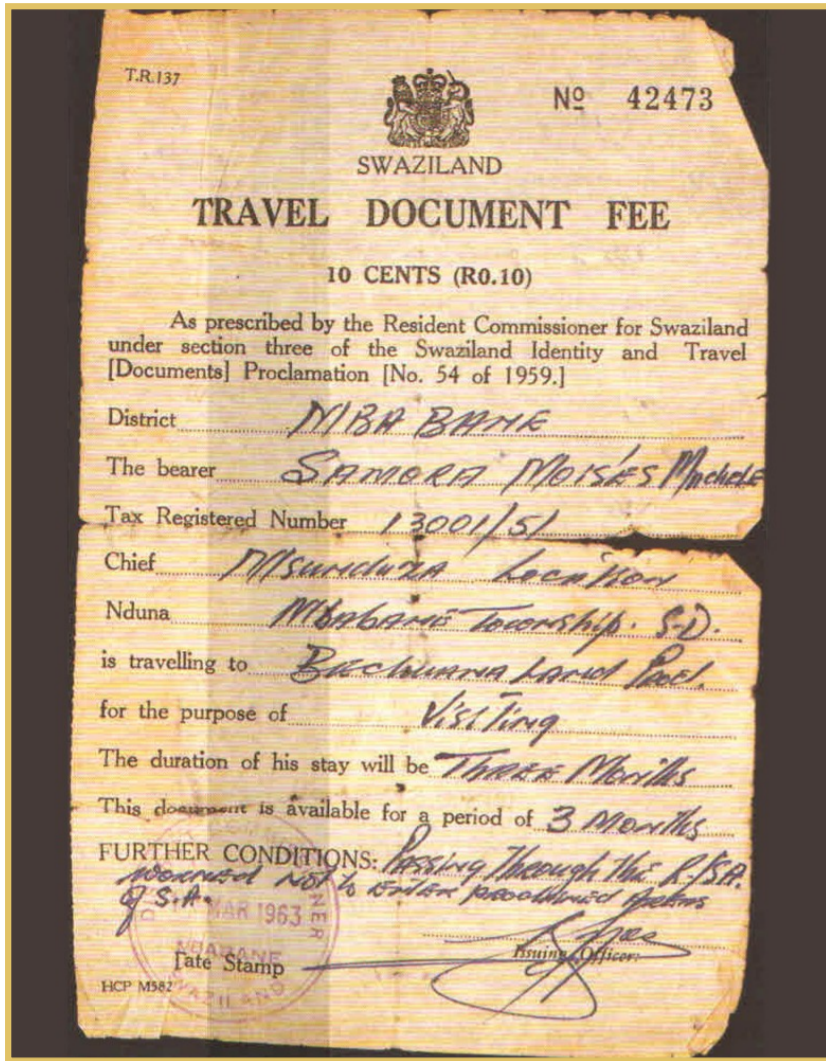


Samora Machel working as a nurse in Inhaca (1958)

In 1954 Samora Machel studied nursing at the Miguel Bombarda Hospital in Lourenço Marques. It was here that he began his political activities, protesting against the fact that black nurses were paid less than whites colleagues.

# Samora Machel's youth & formative years: 1933 - 1962

## SAMORA MACHEL IN CATEMBE



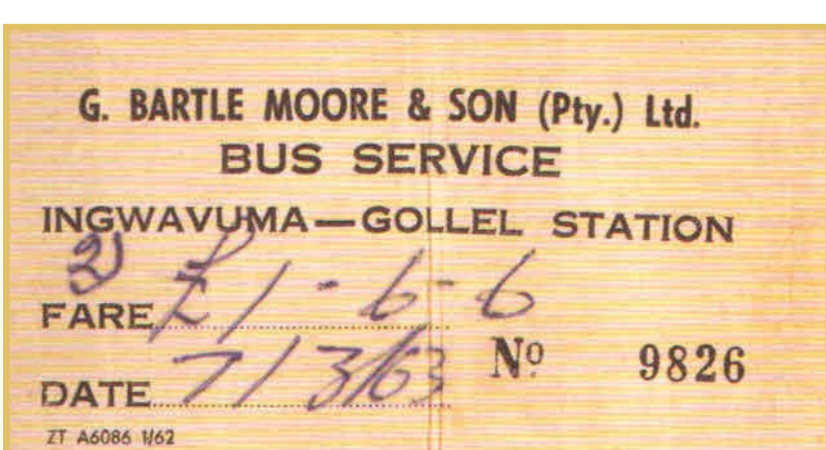
Travel document issued by Swaziland (1963)



Samora Machel in Bechuanaland (Botswana) en route to Tanzania (1963)

After his training, Samora Machel was appointed nurse for Inhaca Island. He frequently passed through Catembe on his way there. To this day, he is fondly remembered by the older residents who recall his numerous visits.

At that time, Machel and his contemporaries followed closely the freedom movements in Algeria, Ghana and other African countries that gained independence. Inspired by the start of the armed struggle for Angola's independence, Machel and other young nationalists began to strategize for Mozambique's independence. In 1962 Samora Machel was warned by African and Portuguese friends that the secret police (PIDE) were after him. As it was unsafe to remain in Mozambique, he opted to join other nationalists in Dar-es-Salaam. His escape route started on 4 March 1963 in Catembe, from where he travelled to Namaacha where he crossed the border with Swaziland and continued on to Botswana and Tanzania.



Bus ticket used by Samora Machel from Swaziland to Botswana (1963)

Before leaving, Samora Machel had been living with a woman from Catembe with whom he had four children. As his family was not involved in politics she remained in Mozambique with their children when Samora went into voluntary exile.

# The struggle for independence: 1963 – 1974

## PREPARING FOR A GUERRILLA WAR



Eduardo Mondlane's arrival in Dar-es-Salaam (1963)

In Dar-es-Salaam Samora Machel joined the Front for the Liberation of Mozambique (FRELIMO) which was formed by Dr Eduardo Mondlane. In 1962 Dr Mondlane united the different liberation movements that were all dedicated to an independent Mozambique.



Che Guavara meeting with FRELIMO in Dar-es-Salaam (1965)

In 1963 Samora Machel and other FRELIMO comrades went to Algeria to receive military training to prepare a guerrilla against colonialism. By 1969, Samora Machel had become commander-in-chief of the FRELIMO army which had already gained the support of Mozambique's population, particularly in the 'liberated zones' of the northern provinces of Mozambique.



Samora Machel returning from Algeria head of the Kongwa Military Camp (1964).

## The struggle for independence: 1963 – 1974

### THE NATIONALIST CAUSE

FRELIMO was founded in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania on 25 June 1962, when three regionally based nationalist organizations namely the Mozambican African National Union (MANU), National Democratic Union of Mozambique (UDENAMO), and the National African Union of Independent Mozambique (UNAMI) merged into one broad based freedom movement. They worked both through formal political/diplomatic channels and military resistance.



At the Second Conference of Nationalist Organizations of the Portuguese Colonies (CONCP), held in Dar-es-Salaam, 3 - 8 October 1965:  
Eduardo Mondlane, Jorge Rebelo, Samora Machel, Helder Martins.



A football team of freedom fighters, 1968: Raimundo Pachinuapa, Samora Machel, Eduardo Mondlane, Joaquim Chissano, Alberto Chipando and Sebastião Mabote.

## The struggle for independence: 1963 – 1974

### THE START OF THE ARMED STRUGGLE

In 1964, Samora Machel participated in FRELIMO's first guerrilla attack against the Portuguese regime in northern Mozambique. On 25 September 1964 Frelimo soldiers, with the support of the local population, attacked the administrative post of Chai in the northern province of Cabo Delgado. This raid marked the beginning of the armed struggle.



Alberto Joaquim Chipande, who fired the first shot on 25 September 1964

25 September is commemorated as a national holiday.



The Headquarters of the National Command Council in Nachingwea, Tanzania, less than 100 kms from the border with Mozambique

**“One does not ask the slave if he wants to be free.”**

Samora Moises Machel.

## The struggle for independence: 1963 – 1974

### JOSINA MACHEL

In 1969 Samora Machel married Josina Mutemba, who gave him a son in 1970. Josina had arrived in Tanzania in 1967 to support the movement for independence. She was an active member of FRELIMO. Although she is best known for her social work such as establishing orphanages in the liberated areas of northern Mozambique, she was also a trained military fighter. In that way she became a founding member of the *Destacamento Feminino*, the women's arm of the independence movement.



The marriage of Samora and Josina, officiated by Rev. Uria Simango, May 1969

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**“Women’s emancipation is not a question of charity.”**

Samora Moises Machel

# The struggle for independence: 1963 – 1974

## 7 APRIL 1971



Samora Machel at Josina's funeral, 10 April 1971

Josina Machel died of prolonged sickness and exhaustion in April 1971.

After independence, 7 April was proclaimed national Women's Day. This day honors both Josina's selfless commitment and the dedicated participation of Mozambican women in the struggle for freedom.



Josina Machel in combat gear



Josina Machel saluting the cause of independence

# The struggle for independence: 1963 – 1974

3 FEBRUARY 1969



Eduardo Mondlane and Samora Machel



“Unidos Venceremos”: Mondlane’s life task was to unite all Mozambicans in the common quest for freedom.

On 3 February 1969 Eduardo Mondlane was assassinated in Dar-es-Salaam presumably by agents of the Portuguese secret services by means of a letter-bomb.

The date of Mondlane’s death is observed as a national holiday, Heroes’ Day (Dia dos Heróis). This day is consecrated to the legacy of the heroes and martyrs who gave their lives for independence.

## The struggle for independence: 1963 – 1974

### SAMORA ELECTED SUCCESSOR TO MONDLANE



Conference of FRELIMO's cadres in Nachingwea, March 1972



Samora Machel addressing Portuguese prisoners in Cabo Delgado, 1972



Samora Machel greeting a local elder in the liberated zone of Cabo Delgado, 1972

After Mondlane's death, others such as FRELIMO's Vice President Uria Simango intended to assume the party's leadership.

Their position was contested by powerful factions within FRELIMO who feared that these would compromise the movement's identity as a Marxist-Leninist party.

By 1970, dissenting groups were expelled from FRELIMO. The party's Central Committee, the most important decision making body, elected Samora Machel as its President and Marcelino dos Santos as Vice President.

Under Samora Machel's leadership, the armed struggle intensified and large tracts of the country were liberated from the colonial regime.

## Samora's governance: 1974 – 1986

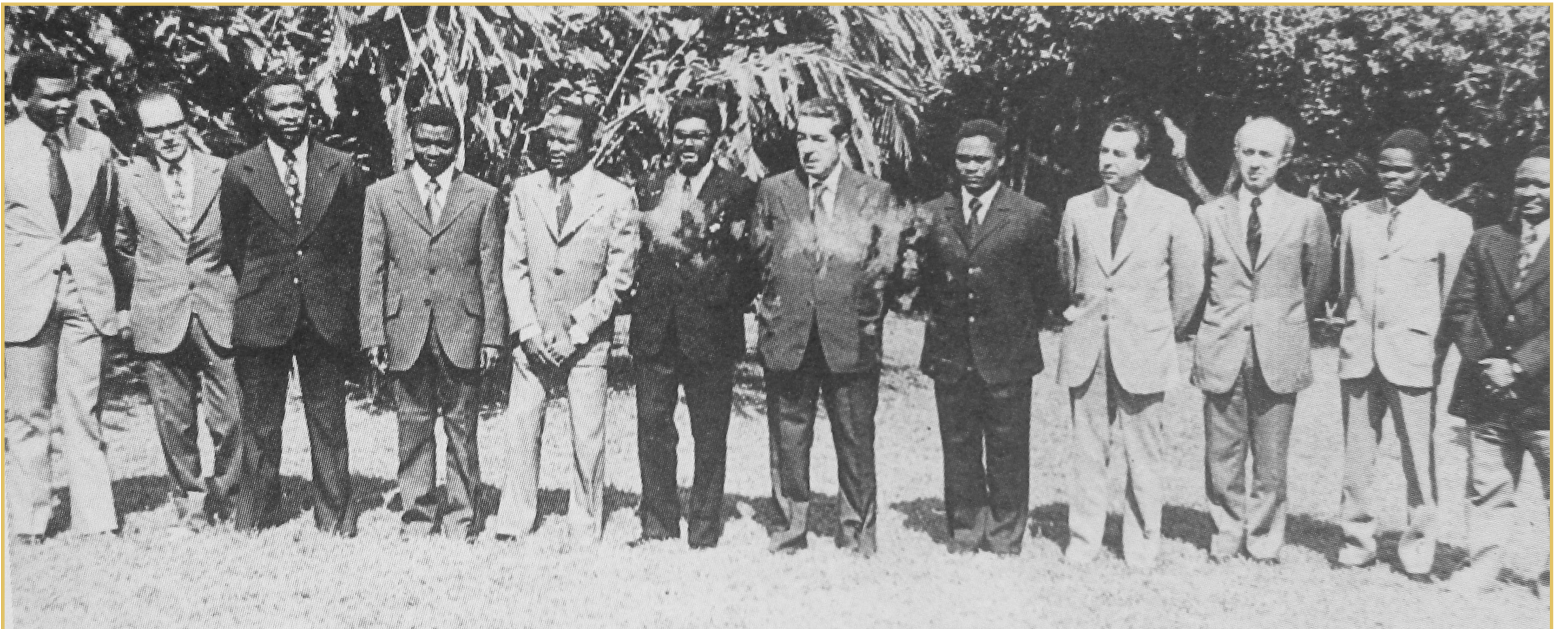
### 7 SEPTEMBER 1974



Samora signing the Treaty of Lusaka

On 25 April 1974 a coup d'état in Portugal toppled the Salazar-Caetano regime. Wearied by the material and moral losses inflicted by the African guerilla wars, the new regime readily granted independence to Portugal's African territories.

On 7 September 1974 FRELIMO and Portugal negotiated the terms of independence. Under the Treaty of Lusaka, Portugal and FRELIMO shared a transitional government until Mozambique formally acquired independence the following year.



The Transitional Government foreseen by the Treaty of Lusaka

**“A vitoria prepara-se, a vitoria organiza-se”**

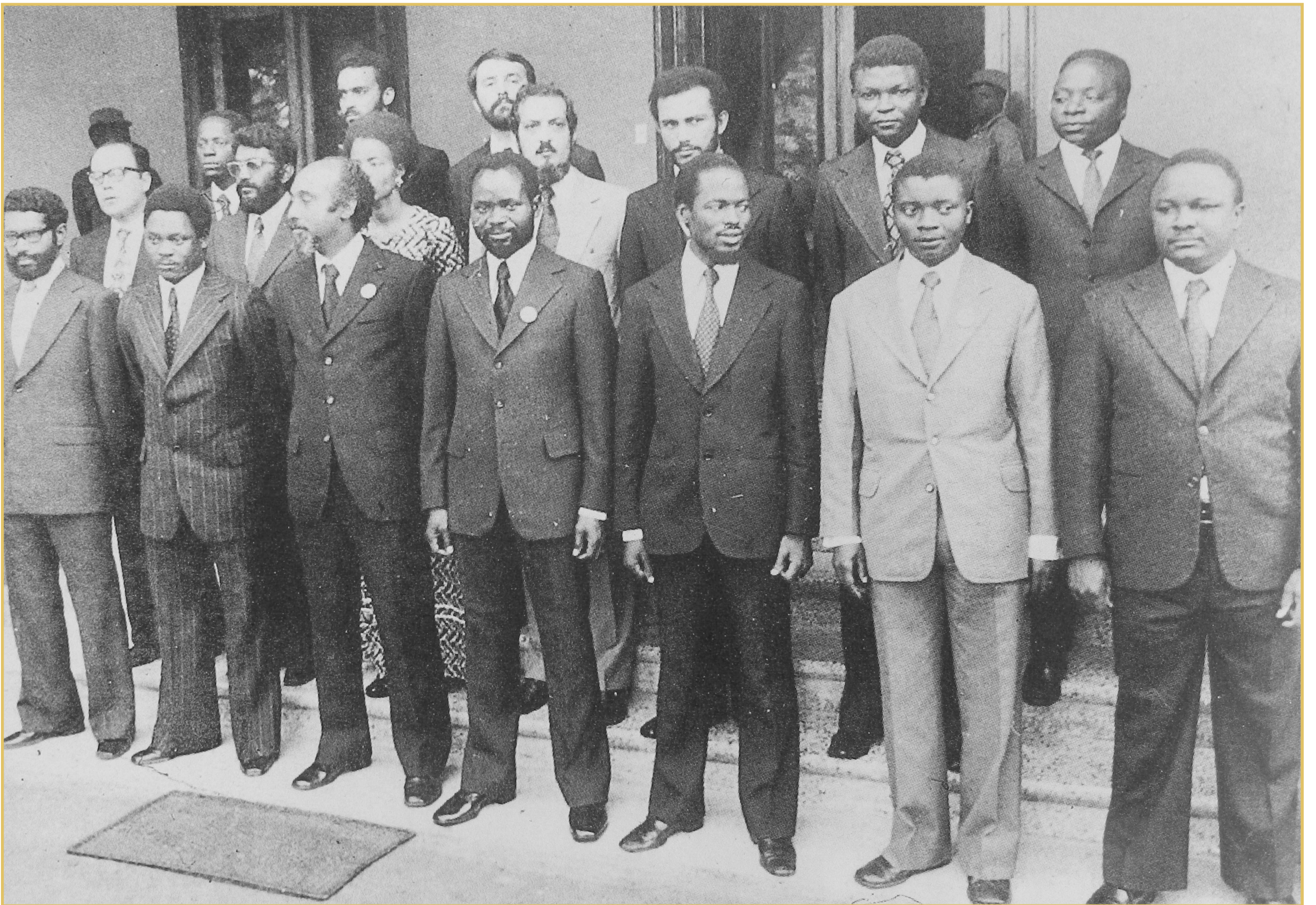
Samora Moises Machel

## Samora's governance: 1974 – 1986

**25 JUNE 1975**

Mozambique formally acquired independence on 25 June 1975. As FRELIMO prepared to take over the task of government, Samora Machel visited the nation.

In his “Maputo to Rovuma Campaign” he traveled from the Maputo River (the southern boundary with South Africa) to the Rovuma River (the northern boundary with Tanzania), and everywhere in between, mobilizing popular support for independence and the new government.



The first Government of the People's Republic of Mozambique: Three Presidents in a row  
Samora Machel with Joaquim Chissano (president from 1986-2005) and Armando Guebuza (president from 2005-2014)

## Samora's governance: 1974 – 1986

### THE SOCIALIST PROJECT

As President of the first government, Samora Machel introduced significant political and economic reforms to institutionalize the socialist project. These included nationalization on 24 July 1977, centralized economic planning, the creation of large-scale units dedicated to communal agriculture, and the resettlement of rural populations in villages where they could access social infrastructure.



Samora in Nampula, 24 July 1977



Samora visiting the communal village named after him, in Mejuco, Nampula, 27 July 1977



Samora welcomes Fidel Castro to the City of Beira, 21 March 1977

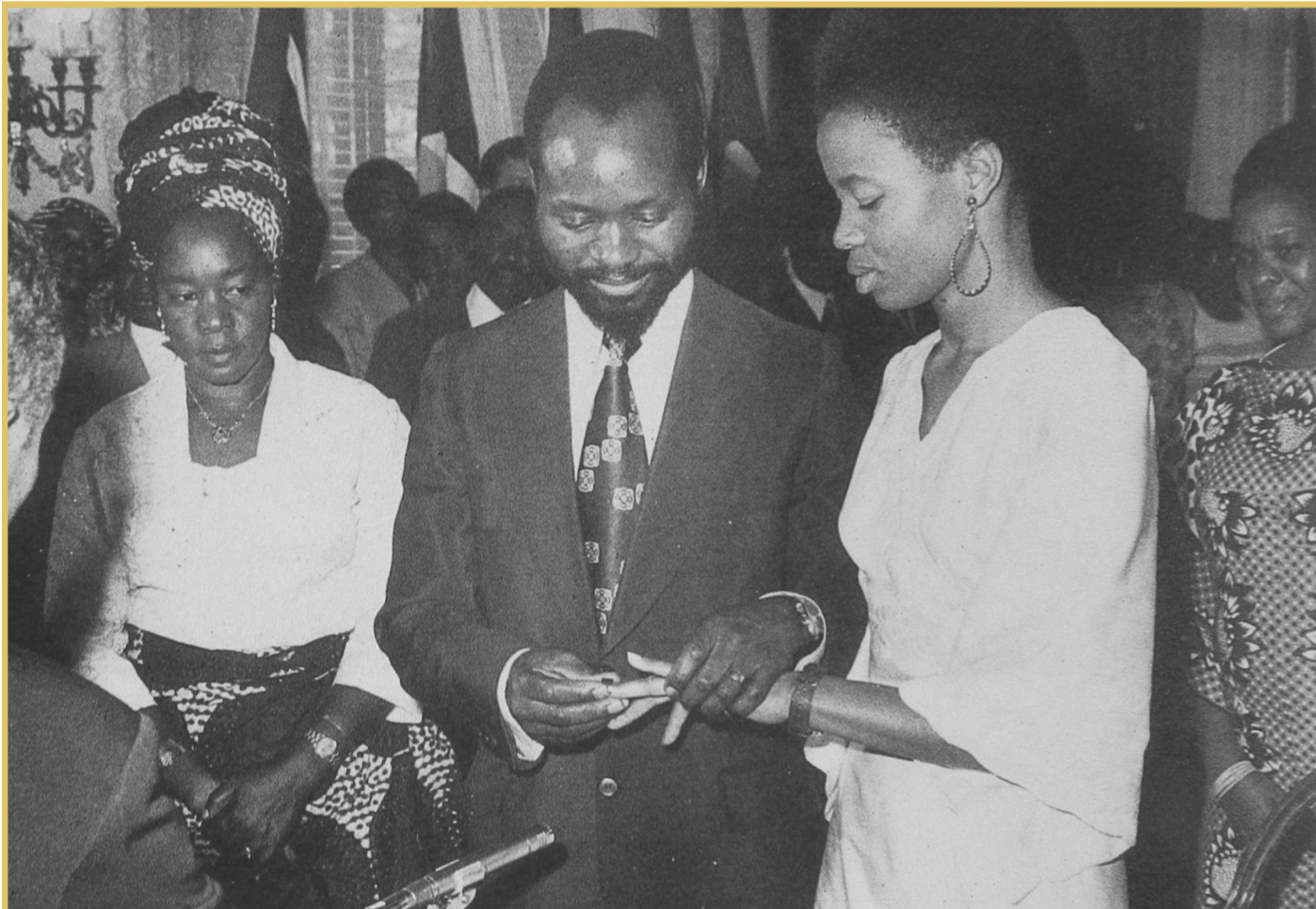
## Samora's governance: 1974 – 1986

### PRIVATE LIFE



Samora meets with his father after his return from Tanzania, 21 June 1975

In his private life, Samora never forgot his family and his roots. He stayed in touch with his extended family and often visited his native village.



Samora weds Graça Simbine.

In 1975 Samora Machel remarried. He wed Graça Simbini who was the Minister for Education in his government. The wedding ceremony was attended by several African heads of state. Kenneth Kaunda (represented by his wife) and Julius Nyerere acted as best man and witness to the union.



From left to right: Graça's mother, Mrs Nyerere, the groom, the bride, Mrs Kaunda, Julius Nyerere

## Samora's governance: 1974 – 1986

### INTERNATIONAL POLICY



Oliver Tambo and Samora Machel addressing a rally in Liberdade, Matola

Samora Machel allowed revolutionaries fighting white minority regimes in Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe) and South Africa to train and operate inside Mozambique.

In 1976 Samora Machel closed the border with Rhodesia. This cut off Harare's access to the port of Beira and severed its rail and communication links. The border was only reopened in 1980 when Rhodesia became the independent nation of Zimbabwe.

In South Africa, the fact that Mozambique had successfully gained independence through armed resistance helped to encourage and intensify the ANC's struggle against Apartheid. Furthermore, Samora Machel granted asylum in Maputo to prominent ANC members such as Jacob Zuma.

**“A luta continua!” - The struggle continues!**

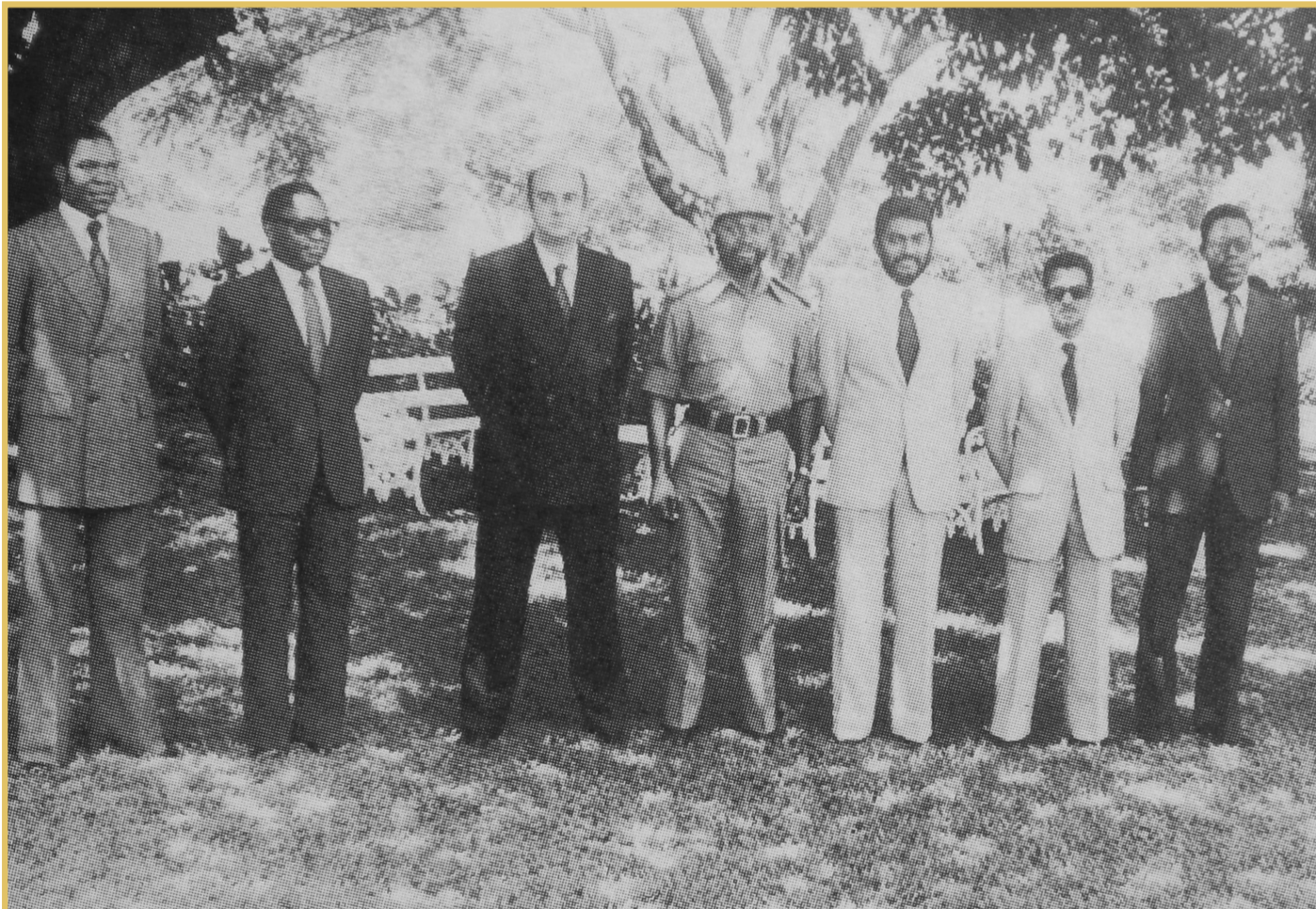
Samora Moises Machel

## Samora's governance: 1974 – 1986

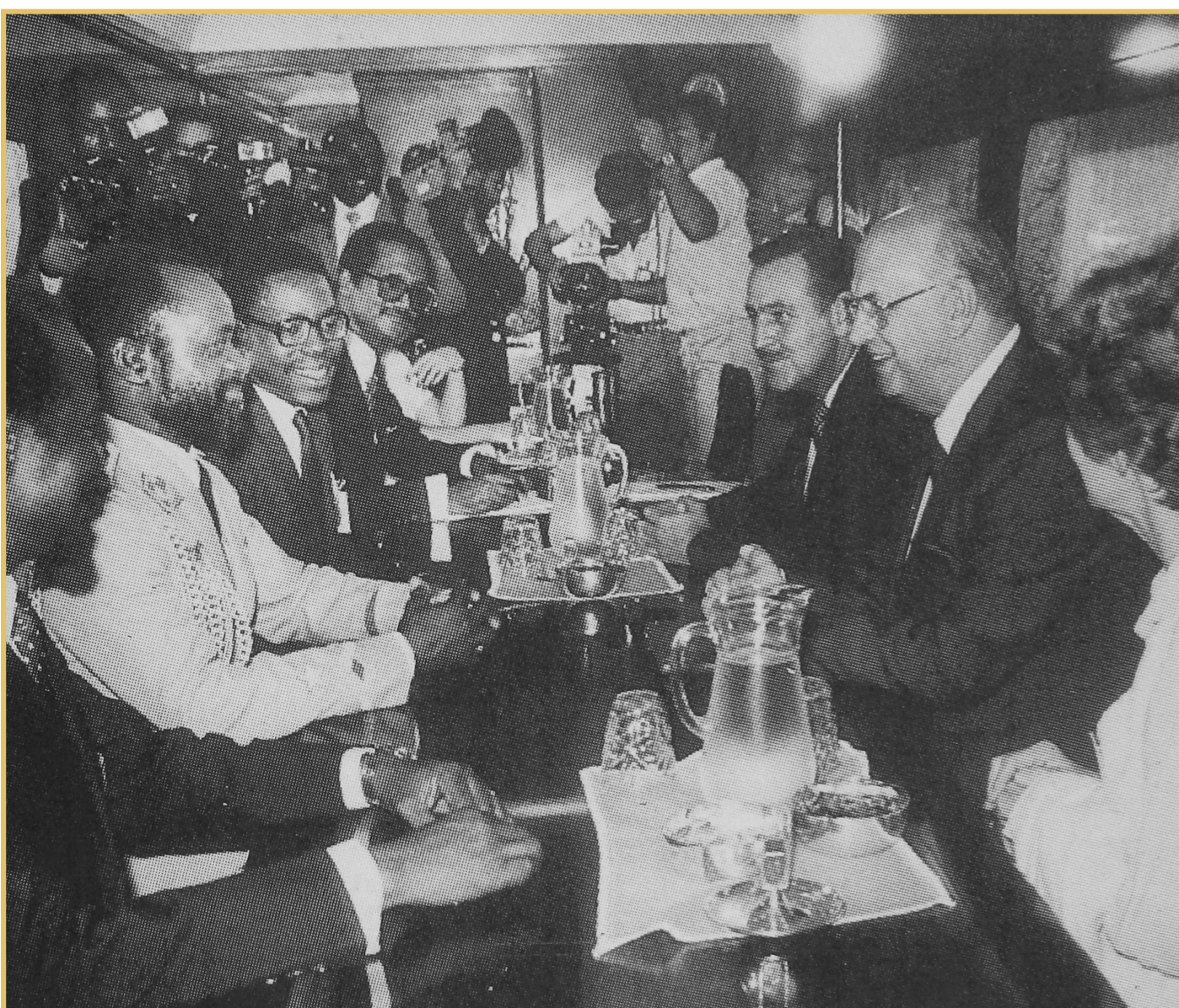
### CIVIL WAR



Afonso Dhlakama leading his soldiers in the bush.



The Mozambican team of negotiators involved in the Inkomati talks.



The meeting between Samora and Pieter Botha in a special rail car used as a meeting room, just before the signature of the Inkomati agreement.

The Rhodesian and Apartheid regimes retaliated by providing military assistance to FRELIMO's opponents who amalgamated into RENAMO (Resistência Nacional de Moçambique) under the leadership of Afonso Dhlakama. With their support, RENAMO destroyed the social and economic infrastructure. The conflict between FRELIMO and RENAMO escalated into a full-blown civil war, which not only put severe strain on the Mozambican economy, but also resulted in untold human loss and suffering.

On 16 March 1984 Samora Machel and the South African President Botha signed the Inkomati Agreement. This non-aggression pact foresaw that South Africa would cease to support RENAMO on the condition that Mozambique would expel the ANC bases from its territory. However, South Africa did not keep its word and continued its destabilization policy. The enduring conflict displaced millions of Mozambicans.

## Samora's governance: 1974 – 1986

### SAMORA MACHEL'S DEATH

On 19 October 1986 Samora Machel was on his way back from an international meeting in Lusaka (Zambia). The presidential aircraft, flown by Russian pilots, crashed in the Lebombo Mountains, near Mbuzini in South-Africa. President Machel and thirty-three others including ministers, government officials, Mozambican and foreign diplomats lost their lives in the tragedy.

A South African Commission found that the accident was caused by pilot error. The report was rejected by the Mozambican and Soviet governments.



The crash site in Mbuzini, South Africa



A Mozambican delegation visits the crash site, 2nd from left is Carlos Cardoso



A memorial designed by Mozambican architect José Forjaz at the Mbuzini crash site was inaugurated in 1999 by Joaquim Chissano and Nelson Mandela.

The Soviets submitted a minority report suggesting that the aircraft was intentionally lured off course by a decoy radio navigation beacon set up for this purpose by the South Africans.



The nation in mourning

## Samora's governance: 1974 – 1986

**4 OCTOBER 1992**

Samora Machel was succeeded by Joaquim Chissano. The civil war ended when President Chissano and RENAMO's leader Afonso Dhlakama signed a Peace Agreement on 4 October 1992. The historic agreement was preceded by intense negotiations between FRELIMO and RENAMO led by Armando Guebuza and Raul Domingos respectively. The talks were mediated by the Catholic Church and took place in Rome. The cease-fire held; the agreements were honoured and duly implemented by both sides.

A countrywide UN Peace Keeping Mission (UNOMOZ) was deployed to assist the transition from war to peace. With considerable support from the international community the first multi-party elections were held in 1994. Members of parliament and the head of state (president) are elected for a term of five years.

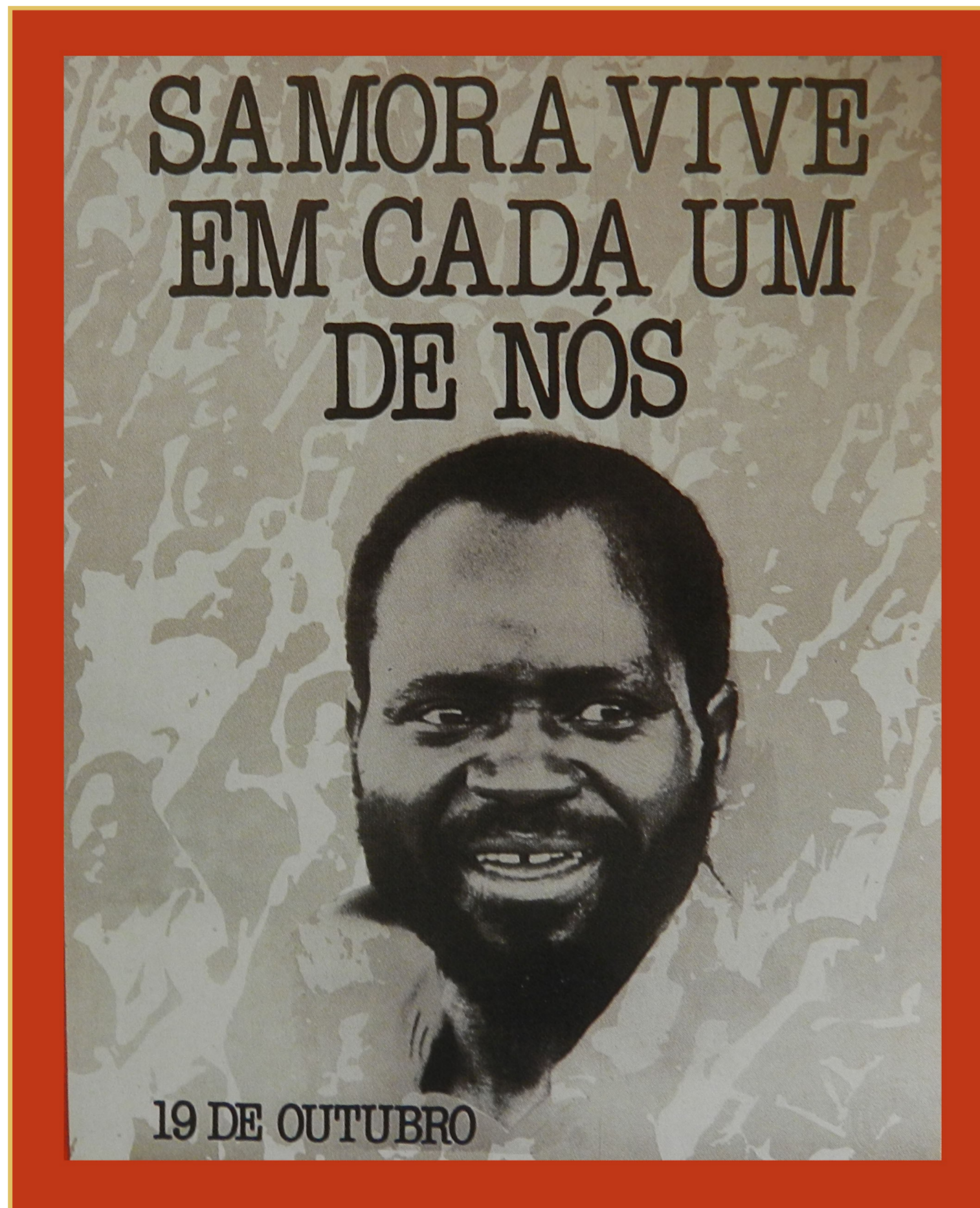


Chissano and Dhlakama celebrating the peace agreement (1992).

## Samora's governance: 1974 – 1986

### SAMORA'S LEGACY

Throughout his presidency, Samora Machel was a charismatic and popular leader. He was seen by many as a true champion of the common man, peasantry and working class.



Samora vive em cada um de nós (Samora lives in each one of us).

Recent analyses suggest that Samora Machel's popularity is ever increasing. He is still widely perceived as the personification of the values that characterized the ideology of the struggle for independence: freedom, commitment to the common good before individual gain, discipline, and incorruptibility.