February 21, 1959
Mao Zedong, 'Africa's Task is to Struggle Against Imperialism'

Citation:

Summary:
On February 21, 1959, in a meeting with representatives of the Union of the Populations of Cameroon and of the youths of Guinea, Kenya and Madagascar, Mao Zedong argued that Africa's task is to struggle against imperialism and that the people of various countries should assist and support African people in the struggle for liberation.

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Chinese

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- English Translation
- Chinese Transcription
AFRICA’S TASK IS TO STRUGGLE AGAINST IMPERIALISM

(February 21, 1959)

The task for all of Africa is to struggle against imperialism, against those who follow imperialism, rather than to struggle against capitalism or establish socialism. Anyone proposing to establish socialism in Africa would be making a mistake. The fact is that imperialism, relying on its running dogs, has allied with some Africans to oppress Africa. The nature of the revolution there is a bourgeois democratic revolution, not a proletarian socialist revolution. On the whole, the struggle of all Africa is a protracted one. First, please do not think of immediate victory or an overnight triumph; be prepared for a protracted struggle. If one is not ideologically prepared for prolonged struggle when imperialism is so powerful, one may be disappointed. Second, please rely mainly on your own efforts, seeking foreign assistance only as a subsidiary. I have these two suggestions for you to consider. I am not familiar with the situation in Africa, nor am I an African. I shall just air my own views for your reference.

The present revolution in Africa is a struggle against imperialism and a national liberation movement. It is a question of national liberation rather than communism; on that we all agree. There are two other points: one is the question of a quick or slow victory. There are only these two possibilities, quick or slow victory. If you are prepared for both, you will not feel disappointed. The other is the question of what force to rely on. Is Africa to be liberated by relying on foreign countries or by relying on the African people themselves? To liberate Africa, it is essential to rely on the African people. African affairs should be run by the Africans themselves by relying on the forces of African people; in the meantime they should make friends throughout the world, including China. China certainly supports you. Whether these two points are right or not is for you to ponder over.

It seems that present Africa is quite different from past Africa. After the Second World War the anti-imperialist movement in Africa developed greatly in 1958. It is expected that the anti-imperialist movement will develop faster in the future. There is no doubt that various countries will help you. The people of various countries, particularly socialist countries and countries that have won independence, will certainly assist and support you. You need support as much as we and all the socialist countries need it. Who is to support us? The national liberation movement in Asia, Africa and Latin America is the main force supporting us. The working class in western Europe supports us too. Support is therefore a mutual matter. Your anti-imperialist movement is a support to us. It is a support to you when the Soviet Union and China have done well. You may think of China as your friend. We are checking imperialism to divert its forces, so it will not be able to concentrate its forces on oppressing Africa.

(From the verbatim record)

[1] This is the main part of Mao Zedong’s talk to representatives of the Union of the Populations of Cameroon and of the youths of Guinea, Kenya and Madagascar.
非洲 前的任 是反 帝 主 , 不是反 本主 [1]

毛

(一九五九年二月二十一日)

非洲 前的任 是反 帝 主 , 反 跟着帝主 的人, 而不是反 本主 , 不是建立帝主 。在非洲提出建立帝主 社 , 要犯 事 是帝 主 依靠它的走狗, 合非洲的一部分人 迫非洲。目前非洲 种革命的性 , 是 民主革命, 不是无 社会革命。一般 , 整 非洲的斗 是期的。一不要以外 多上可以胜利, 明天早上就胜利, 要准 期斗, 如不作 期斗 的思想准 , 而帝 主 那么强大, 就要失望。二要以依靠自己力量 主, 取外 援助 。我有 建, 你 考。我不熟悉非洲的情形, 我又不是非洲人。我 我的意, 供你 考。

非洲 前的革命是反 帝 主 , 搞民族解放 , 不是共 主 , 而是民族解放 。点我 的意 都是一致 的。另外 点: 一是胜利的快, 慢 。可能胜利快, 也可能胜利慢, 无非 种。 都准 , 就不至于失望。二是依靠什么力量的 。是依靠外 解放非洲, 是依靠非洲人自己解放非洲?要依靠非洲人自己解放非洲。非洲的事情 非洲人自己去 , 依靠非洲人自己的力量。同 也要在世界上找朋友, 包括中 在 。至于中 , 一定支持你 。点是否 , 你 考。

看 , 在的非洲与 去的非洲有所不同。第二次世界大 以后, 一九五八年非洲反帝 有很大的 展。可以料到, 今后非洲的反帝 比 去 展得更快。至于各 要 助你 , 那毫无 。各 人民, 特 是社主 家, 已 立 了的 家, 一定要 助。支持你 。你 需要支持, 我 也需要支持, 而且所有的社主 家都需要支持。 支持我 ? 不是 洲、非洲、拉丁美洲的民族解放 , 是支持我 的最要的力量。支持我 的 有西 的 工人 。所以是 相互的支持。你 那里的反帝 就是支持我 。 、 中 把工作做好一点, 也就是支持你 。你 可以考 , 中 可以 作你 的一 朋友。我能 制帝主 , 使它力量分散, 不能集中力量去 迫非洲。

[1] 是毛 塔 隆人民 盟代表和 几 、肯尼 、 加斯加青年代表 的 。