

(Hereford : 9 mars 1983)

Addition aux Prologomena du volume à consacrer au Symposium qui s'est tenu à Praia sur l'occasion de la dixième commémoration de la disparition de AMÍLCAR CABRAL:-

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Basil Davidson ;

Pereira

Your Excellencies the President ~~of~~ the Republic of Cape Verde and the President Senghor of Senegal, Mr Chairman, Madame Vice-Chairman, Madame Cabral, Friends and Comrades !

Having the honour of being vice-chairman of this distinguished gathering of statesmen and scholars, progressive activists, historians and sociologists, from almost every quarter of the globe, from the Far West to the Far East and through all the longitudes between, it falls to me to convey our greetings and good wishes to our hospitable hosts, and above all to President Pereira and Prime Minister Pires.

I do so with humility, but also with vigour. We are glad to be here ; we are grateful for all the excellent arrangements which the Secretariat, on your behalf, has made for us ; we look forward to the sessions of this remarkable Symposium with keen anticipation ; and we seize this opportunity of conveying to you our good wishes but also our congratulations on the outstanding successes which you have achieved, in the face of every difficulty, in leading the people of the Cape Verde Republic to peace and reconstruction.



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We all know - but it is good to repeat the fact from this  
tribune - that Amílcar Cabral stays with us. To say this is no  
kind of mystification or sentimentality, no matter how much our own  
personal feelings may be moved by this occasion and the memories that  
it cannot fail to <sup>quicken</sup> ~~move~~. It is to assert that Amílcar stays with  
us in dimensions which <sup>are</sup> ~~are~~ thoroughly real and practical : in his  
thought and its continuing influence ; in the example of his  
lucidity and courage ; and, beyond all that, in the achievements,  
the successes, the victories gained under his leadership.

That is why it is natural, at this moment, to emphasise an  
essential and indeed dominating aspect of our meeting here today.  
This aspect lies in the steadfast continuity of thought and action  
which you have displayed and assured in developing and realising,  
in circumstances often new and sometimes unforeseen, the key ideas,  
ideals, and policies elaborated by Amílcar, as your unique  
leader and inspiration, during the armed struggle for liberation.  
I know that all of your guests, no matter how differently they  
may analyse the world and its problems, are united in wishing to  
emphasise this decisive but also creative continuity of thought and  
action on your part, just as they are certainly united in wishing  
to pay homage to the memory of Cabral himself.

Others may change, may fall away, may turn back or turn aside,  
may prefer to forget the aims and loyalties defined and inspired  
by Cabral. You have never done so, and among the many singular and



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decisive proofs that you have never turned away or turned aside from the tasks entrusted to you by Cabral - proofs that are clear to all the world - this Symposium, however modestly, <sup>will</sup> ~~now~~ now ~~take~~ take its due and proper ~~place~~ place. Your Excellencies, Distinguished Comrades, we salute you, and we <sup>thank</sup> ~~thank~~ you !

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Basil Davidson

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30 March 1984

Cda Olivio Pires  
PAICV  
Praia

Mon cher Olivio

Ton camarade Olivio, de Paris, m'a fait savoir que vous avez besoin d'une liste des références pour mon papier (offert au Symposium). Les voici. Je vous prie d'utiliser celles que vous trouvez utiles.

Avec mes salutations affectueuses -

ton

Basil

Basil Davidson