

Mbu ya Ūrambu: Mbaara ya Cuito Cuanavale

Rĩrĩa meetaga Mandela na ndundu yake imaramari
Meetaga Verwoerd na Vorster na Botha arũiri wiyathi

Rĩrĩa mendagĩria abathendi matharaita ma kũratha andũ airũ
Kiumba yaheyaga arũiri wiyathi matharaita ma kwĩgitĩra

Rĩrĩa Obama ageithia Castro mathikoinĩ ma Mandela
O arĩa maheyaga abatheindi mĩcinga makoiga mbu

Kaĩ mariganĩrwo atĩ Mbaarainĩ ya Cuita Cuanavale
Reagan na Thatcher maanyitĩte Abathendi mbaru?

Atĩ tiga nĩ ūhootani mũnyite mbaru nĩ Kiumba kĩahaaroinĩ kĩa Cuito Cuanavale
Mandela angĩathikirwo njeera gacigĩrĩa ka Robben, tene?

The Cry of Hypocrisy: The Battle of Cuito Cuanavale

(translated from Gĩkũyũ)

While they hated Mandela as a commie and terrorist
They hailed Verwoerd Vorster and Botha as freedom fighters

While they armed apartheid to defeat the struggle
Cuba armed the real freedom fighters to defend the struggle

boundary 2 41:2 (2014) DOI 10.1215/01903659-2685953 © 2014 Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o

And when at Mandela's funeral Obama shook hands with Castro
They who used to arm apartheid cried foul

Have they forgotten that at the battle of Cuito Cuanavale
Reagan and Thatcher sided with Apartheid?

That but for the Cuba backed victory at Cuito Cuanavale
Mandela's funeral would have been on Robben Island years earlier?

Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o