

PEOPLE'S MOVEMENT FOR  
THE LIBERATION OF ANGOLA  
MPLA

ADDRESS OF THE HEAD OF THE MPLA DELEGATION AT  
THE OPENING SESSION OF THE FIRST MEETING FOR  
THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AGREEMENT OF 13  
DECEMBER 1972 SIGNED BY THE MPLA AND THE FNLA

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Dear compatriots:

It is with a feeling of deep emotion and hope that I am addressing this meeting which is for many reasons so important to us all, the FNLA and the MPLA, and consequently so important to the whole Nation.

The unity of our country, dear compatriots, is the foremost reason for our meeting here. The Nation and the peace- and freedom-loving world are anxiously awaiting the concretisation of our commitment of 13 December last. We therefore have a tremendous responsibility.

True to its consistent policy of promoting national unity, the MPLA will certainly not fail to exert every effort to make our work a success.

But the success of this work depends on how it is organised. What is needed is to draw up a practical agenda, that is, an agenda which will enable us increasingly to adapt the December agreement to the concrete requirements of our struggle, and thus overcome the obvious shortcomings arising out of the lack of an extensive confrontation of the ideas of both organisations at the time of the signing of our basic agreement.

Therefore allow me, dear compatriots, before going on to put forward our proposed agenda, to mention a few considerations which the MPLA judges necessary to establish more clearly the content of the talks we are going to have here.

It is clear to everyone that the heroic struggle of our people in arms is now entering upon a new phase of its development. The situation we are now experiencing is no longer that which prevailed in 1961. Both internally and internationally, Angolan nationalism finds itself faced with a new situation which demands of all of us very serious reflection, a community of ideas, and courage and joint action. Dispersal and even past hostility would now represent a form of abdication and evidence of total irresponsibility, given the gravity of the threat which hangs over the Nation.

- \* The enemy have changed their tactics. In order better to achieve their strategy of exploitation, which derives from their very essence, the enemy, who have been brought to bay by the growing vigour of popular resistance, are trying at all costs to find a political way out, having shown themselves to be incapable of finding a military way out. Negotiation is the enemy's present tactical objective. But the negotiations they are so desperately seeking would be with corrupt individuals, and not with a united, organised and armed people. Setting Angolan against Angolan is the key to their new strategy.

In the press, on the radio, in public speeches and in new laws, Portuguese reformism is aiming increasingly at 'autonomy and independence' which would merely be a perpetuation of the system of exploitation and oppression in force in Angola for almost five hundred years.