

PEOPLE'S MOVEMENT FOR THE LIBERATION
OF ANGOLA
M.P.L.A.

OUT LINE FOR THE MPLA FIRST CONGRESS

After eighteen years of existence and arduous struggles and thirteen years of war, MPLA is convoking its first normal Congress, which will culminate the series of meetings held over this period, viz:

- First National Conference 1962
- National Cadres Conference 1964
- Regional Assembly of I and II Regions, and Regional Assembly of III Region 1968
- Readjustment Movement of Eastern Front 1972
- Readjustment Movement of Northern Front 1973
- Assemblies of Active Militants in the Northern Front and in the Eastern Front 1974.

Arising from the Angolan People, the MPLA was created to respond to an urgent and essential need of the historic process of our country.

1961 brought a fundamental qualitative leap in the history of MPLA's struggle, which was the change to armed struggle as the only means left open for the achievement of its aims: the total and complete independence of the Angolan People.

Pursuing this objective, MPLA was accepted in both the national and international context as the principal nationalist force in Angola, whose prestige continuously grew amongst the widest sections of our People. This was because MPLA, the true representative of the Angolan People, always had in mind the unity of the People, and constantly defended the interests of the most exploited sections of our people, because of the strength of its struggle, its political orientation and its eminently national character.

In spite of its present complexity the international situation is favourable for the national liberation struggle. The liberation struggle of the People under Portuguese colonial domination is the fundamental cause of the political change which has taken place in Portugal, having created the conditions for democratic Portuguese forces to bring about the downfall of the fascist system in that country.

Fascism in Portugal has fallen and democratic processes have allowed truly progressive forces to emerge on the Portuguese political scene, which pre-

viously had been unable to show themselves fully or legally. These forces, representing the true feelings and wishes of the Portuguese people are trying to orientate the political process already begun in Portugal, so that the regime will recognise our people's right to self-determination and independence.

So, it is possible that Portuguese colonialism, our direct enemy, disappears from the political scene, and imperialism, always our principal enemy, will now also become our direct enemy.

Even if Portuguese colonialism appears to be finished now, imperialism has not suffered any serious blow. Now it is our job to carefully follow the metamorphoses and forms in which imperialism activity may present itself so as to stop us from gaining of our objectives. We must follow the attempts by racist regimes in Southern Africa to support forces against independence, attempts to weaken MPLA in an anti-popular front, reducing its progressive content, attempts by international monopolies to create a false independence.

Aware of all these dangers, MPLA remains alert and decided to continue its liberation struggle for a real and complete independence.

The national liberation struggle appears to have reached a phase in which through armed struggle, we have gained the right of our People to self-determination and independence. This being so, new ways are open to achieve our objective. The armed struggle loses its raison d'être once the right of our people to immediate total and complete independence is recognised by the Portuguese government.

With the process of liberalisation that has taken place to a certain extent in the Angolan national political scene, new forces supporting MPLA are of the greatest importance. There has been a growing acceptance of the objectives of our Movement and national forces are coming to the surface, albeit cautiously, to confirm our Movement in its position as the sole legitimate defender of the wishes and interests of the Angolan People.

The most important task of our struggle at this time is the unification of the widest masses of the Angolan People around the MPLA.

So the Congress to be held must first make an overall assessment of our activities, so as to solve the Movement's problems. It must prepare a Programme and present the Organisation with stable structures capable of carry-

ing out our Organisation's pressing tasks and shouldering the great responsibilities that it will be called to with the perspective of taking power.

It will also be a Congress for unity. In this context and in accordance with MPLA's programme, the Congress will call upon the whole Angolan people, irrespective of ethnic group, religion or political opinion, and upon all the country's personalities, to join with MPLA in the common fight against our common enemy.

The Congress will have to make clear, now more than ever, that neighbouring countries are no more than logistic bridgeheads. The Congress will reiterate the principle of our Movement's independence and underline its policy of non-alignment. So our Congress, situating our struggle in the overall scene of the struggle for progress, will stress that our struggle is a help to all the people of the world. The support which they lend us is a form of international solidarity, which should be the duty of progressive people and countries, and particularly of neighbouring countries. Remembering these basic principles, the Congress will confirm that foreign aid should not be used as a means of changing our policy.

The Congress will vehemently demand the liberation of our Movement's prisoners held in the prisons of different countries.

Our fighting solidarity will be expressed to CONCP and its constituent organisations, PAIGC, FRELIMO, and MLSTP; with the peoples and organisations of Southern Africa; with the Provisional Revolutionary Government of South Viet Nam and the heroic Viet Nameese people, with the Palestinian people and Arab countries in general, with the Chilean people and with the struggle of the Portuguese people, now liberated from fascism, and our special solidarity with their progressive vanguard.

The Congress will underline the importance of the diplomatic struggle and give general orientation, so that it may be adapted to the present political situation.

The Congress will express its adherence to the principles of the OAU Charter and the United Nations Charter.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF MPLA



24th May 1974