

numerous cases of fines, searches, and arrests.

For example, in the Azerbaijan Republic, seventy-six-year-old Evangelical Elder Petr Serebrennikov was arrested and sentenced to a five-year term in a strict-regime labor camp for "encroaching on . . . rights . . . by practicing religious ceremonies."

*Persecution of Crimean Tatars.* Tatars who try to return to their homeland in Crimea from places of exile are savagely persecuted. According to samizdat accounts, the authorities launched an offensive against some newly arrived Tatars in Crimea in May and June 1976, during which their homes were destroyed by bulldozers and their families thrown in trucks and hauled out of Crimea. Others were arrested for being "parasites" because they were not granted work permits and therefore could not get jobs. According to the *Chronicle*, this persecution continued into the latter part of 1976.

Three more families were forcibly deported. Members of one family—Resmie Yunusova, Memet Seitveliev, and their paralyzed child—were still living in a tent next to the remains of their home, twice demolished by police bulldozers.

*Crackdown in Georgia.* In June and July 1976, a number of persons were questioned because they had had contact with Zviad Gamsakhurdia, a dissident Georgian writer. (Until his arrest in April 1977, Gamsakhurdia exposed oppression and corruption in Georgia in his samizdat journal, the *Golden Fleece*. He was also active in defending persecuted dissidents through the Georgian Initiative Group and Helsinki accords monitoring group.)

In July 1976, in Tbilisi, capital of the Georgian Republic, the security police interrogated scientific worker G. Gogochuri. In his dissertation Gogochuri had spoken out against the new rule that dissertations in Georgian scientific institutes must be defended in the Russian language. The interrogators called this an expression of nationalism and warned that such statements could have "dangerous consequences" for him.

*Short Communiqués.* Numerous other instances of persecution occurred in the Ukrainian, Russian, Moldavian, Lithuanian, and Latvian republics.

In early 1976, in the Latvian Republic, leaflets began to appear in the native language calling upon Latvians to struggle for democratic rights. Signed by the Democratic Union of Latvian Youth, the leaflets were made from letters cut from the newspaper and pasted together on a sheet of paper.

Later a leaflet in Russian and Latvian, signed by the same group, was issued, calling upon Russians to leave Latvia. This was followed by a typed leaflet "of economic content," according to the *Chronicle*. Next came another typed leaflet

calling for freedom for Soviet political prisoners.

Finally, a hand-lettered leaflet calling for "Freedom for Latvia" provided just the investigatory key the Stalinist bureaucrats thought they needed: "In the schools special writing exercises were conducted in which the students had to write in their

usual script and printed hand."

Not only did this technique fail to nab the elusive propagandists, but in mid-1976 in Riga, the capital of the Latvian Republic, the call for "Freedom for Soviet political prisoners" appeared in huge black letters on the wall next to the central prison. □

## 'We Have Set Up a Dictatorship'

## Wide Purge of MPLA Reported in Angola



NETO: Widens list of conspirators to include "extremists" in Portugal.

Since the May 27 coup attempt in Angola, the ruling Movimento Popular de Libertação de Angola (MPLA—People's Movement for the Liberation of Angola) has arrested hundreds of persons and conducted purges at various levels of the MPLA apparatus. The extent of this crackdown is an indication of the depth of the crisis within the MPLA that led to the coup attempt.

*New York Times* correspondent Michael T. Kaufman reported in a June 19 dispatch from Nairobi, Kenya, that according to radio broadcasts monitored by the Foreign Broadcast Monitor Service, a U.S. government agency, Nito Alves and José van Dunem, two leading dissidents within the MPLA, had escaped from prison during the abortive coup. Alves and van Dunem were both members of the MPLA Central Committee who had been expelled from that body a few days before the fighting erupted in Luanda.

Angolan President Agostinho Neto has declared over the radio that they must be captured and "made to pay" for their alleged involvement in the coup.

Kaufman also reported that according to the broadcasts, an armored brigade of the MPLA army had joined the rebellion.

Predicting a wide purge, Neto stated, "Obviously we are going to find in various services in various state bodies, people who contributed to this agitation. We will find them in the army, in the state information agency. We are going to find them in all organizations. All of them will pay."

Among those officials arrested so far have been Commander Pedro Jacob Caetano and the commissioner of Malange Province. According to a report in the June 20 issue of the London weekly *West Africa*, the MPLA Political Bureau has suspended the Executive Commissions in the provinces of Luanda, Malange, and Benguela. It said that the action was taken because of the "passive and sometimes co-operative attitude which some members of the Executive Commissions took towards the splittists' activities." The presidents of seven ward committees in Luanda have also been dismissed from office.

Neto has charged that the dissidents in the MPLA were supported by "extremists" in Portugal, who he said wanted to change the regime into "a leftist, perhaps Maoist regime." Several Portuguese have been arrested in Angola, including Col. João Varela Gomes and former Portuguese Labor Minister José Costa Martins, both of whom fled to Angola after an abortive putsch attempt in Portugal in November 1975. Also under arrest is Virgílio Frutuoso, the former editor of *Diário de Luanda*.

President Neto issued a warning to all dissidents, stating, "We are the MPLA and we have set up a dictatorship under which we live." Although he claimed that the Angolan dictatorship was not a "bourgeois dictatorship," he asserted, "It is the MPLA which lays down the path to be followed."

Neto added, "In Angola, organizations that do not function in accordance with our orientation will be dissolved." □