



ANGOLA in ARMS

information organ of the

PEOPLE'S MOVEMENT FOR THE LIBERATION OF ANGOLA



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PORTUGUESE PROPAGANDA MEDIA TO FOOL OUR PEOPLE

TEN YEARS ago the People's Movement for the Liberation of Angola launched in our country the armed struggle on the initiative of heroic MPLA militants. With tenacity and intelligence the guerrilla war has advanced on many fronts and our people's revolutionary attitude has been accentuated and become clearer. The expansion of our struggle and its thoroughgoing nature are not to be measured only by the military fronts and areas under our control; another more essential yardstick is the very character of the struggle, the way in which the idea of revolution has taken root in the minds of our militants.

Today we can be certain that the eyes of our people are upon the MPLA as the irreplaceable vanguard in our fight. Driven to despair by

the fact of struggle in three of their colonies -- Angola, Guinea and Mozambique -- the Portuguese colonialists are trying to salvage their position by barbarous repression against the peoples in these African countries, carrying out a shameless and torrential mind-poisoning campaign and using all the propaganda media at their disposal to try to fool our people.

Apart from the additional technical means supplied to their war apparatus and its growing budget allotment, the Portuguese colonialists are also seeking to deceive, bribe and corrupt the population through their so-called psycho-social campaign. Although there is no doubt that our enemy, the Portuguese colonialists, have been forced to make certain political

concessions to the Angolan people, these concessions are sheer demagoguery. They can never achieve the major objectives of our struggle. They are no more than signs of the dawn which is shattering the colonialist night.

The improved living standards of a few Angolans, the growing number of schools and hospitals and the benefits suddenly accorded to Angolans, including certain social benefits, are all victories which our people have won through armed struggle.

The recent proposal put forward by Marcelo Caetano, President of the Portuguese Council of Ministers, is a further victory for our people and is clear evidence of the extent to which the colonialists are feeling the burden of the war. But such victories are hardly sufficient to satisfy our people's right to Independence. The Angolan people do not accept crumbs from the colonialist oppressor. We are fighting to win favours and graces from the Portuguese government, which has exploited our land and oppressed our people and which is hated by all patriots. We are fighting for a right. The right is TO BE FREE. The right is TO GOVERN OURSELVES. The right TO PRESENT OURSELVES TO THE WORLD WITH OUR OWN POLITICAL AND SOCIAL PERSONALITY. The right TO BE RESPECTED AS A PEOPLE who have for centuries contributed to the progress of mankind.

The proposals for the autonomy of the colonies and, hence, for Angolan's autonomy, are full of all the Portuguese government's habitual ambiguity and demagoguery. The People's Movement for the Liberation of Angola once again affirms that it will not be swayed by Senhor Caetano's demagogic tactics. The only possible outcome of this struggle will be TOTAL INDEPENDENCE. Our struggle will continue,

EDITORIAL

THE meeting which took place in Lisbon between the Foreign Ministers of member countries of NATO and Caetano's government, constituted, in the first place, a declared support on the part of the NATO for the Portuguese colonialist policy and simultaneously a manoeuvre 'in extremis' to fortify and save a moribund Portuguese colonialism. The fact that NATO has proposed and accepted a Portuguese capital to hold its meeting is a further addition to the aggression that is being waged against Africa in general and against the countries that are fighting for their liberation. The NATO countries participate, to a large or small extent, with their capital in the exploitation of the people of Angola.

On the other hand Portugal possesses, in Europe and in her colonies, geographical positions which could serve as bases for offensive and defensive operations in Europe. Similarly, Portugal wants, in connivance with racist South Africa, to enlarge the aggressive zones of operation for NATO in the South Atlantic -- be it by offering her bases in the colony; be it by making way for complete imperialist investment. This could be explanation enough of NATO's wish to uphold the 'status quo'.

By using NATO weapons in the colonial war, with the silent and veiled approval of NATO Portugal involves all member countries since a long time, in the conflict between Portugal and our people and makes them accomplices of genocidal and criminal aggression. In making the conflict an international one by supporting Portugal, NATO serves the expansionist interests of imperialism which wants to transfer its defeat in the Far East to carry out greater massacres in Africa on the people under colonialism and apartheid.

The experience of a ten-year progressive war on our part will transform the focus of the international war which the Lisbon meeting wished to create into defeats for European expansionism and American imperialism.

MPLA strongly condemns Lisbon's aggression and will continue its struggle against all enemies of independence and liberty for the Angolan people -- be it the Portuguese colonialist or any other countries or organisations which support Portugal.

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WOMEN'S DELEGATION VISITS ANGOLA

A DELEGATION from the WIDF, the Women's International Democratic Federation, consisting of Comrade Cecile Hugel, Secretary-General, and her secretary Comrade Deniele Jeannet, have just been inside Angola, invited by OMA, the Organisation of Angola Women, the MPLA's mass women's organisation. Accompanied by Comrade Tchiungue, a leading member of OMA, the delegation visited one of the regions in our country under MPLA control and, through their contact with the civilian population, with OMA militants, partisans and MPLA leaders, they were able to see for themselves the intensive and hard, but inspiring work of a new political

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Portuguese propaganda

regardless of all manoeuvres. Structured to carry on the fight until our people are completely free and until total independence can be freely enjoyed by our entire population, we will carry on with our struggle.

Side by side with the Portuguese colonialists are their congregated allies, the imperialists and racists of every brand, each trying out his own political tactics in our country for the purposal of safeguarding interests built up on the backs of our people. These imperialists are bent at all costs on opening breaches between Angolans, financing and sponsoring puppet groups which call themselves liberation movements so as to make it appear to the world that we are divided and, therefore, incompetent.

Puppets have made their appearance here and there, some short-lived and others more persistent. All of them have been backed by the formidable machinery the imperialists have at their disposal and known so well how to manipulate. Yet the mercenary character of these groupings, which makes them fall prey to narrow tribalism and preconceptions of all kinds, makes it impossible for them to win the confidence of even those Angolans they say they want to defend. The MPLA trusts in the power of its political orientation and in the justness of its ultimate objectives.



Mrs. Cecile Hugel, Secretary General WIDF

reality: independence in embryo in a country of which a large part is still occupied.

This visit by comrades Cecile Hugel and Daniele Jeannet was also in implementation of the decision taken by the WIDF Council to stimulate worldwide solidarity with the women and peoples in the countries under Portuguese colonial domination, and Angola in particular, in their national liberation struggle. This visit also came within the broad framework of direct contact between the WIDF Secretary-General and member organisations in Africa on the occasion of the International Year of Struggle against Racism and Colonialism proclaimed by the UN.

The WIDF representatives visited Mali, the Republic of Guinea and Congo Brazzaville before spending some time among the MPLA fighters in Angola.

In the following interview initially broadcast direct to Angola in the Fighting Angola programme, they gave their impressions of their visits:

Q. Comrade Cecile Hugel, what do you think of the emancipation of women within the MPLA and in the regions you visited?

A. The emancipation of the Angolan woman comes within the context of the people's overall struggle, under the leadership of the MPLA, for the independence of Angola and for a future of progress and democracy, which is the necessary condition for the emancipation and equal rights of women. By making their contribution to the Angolan people's struggle in every sphere of health, supplies and child education, women also taking part in the actual armed struggle, they have won the great respect of the men comrades. We also met ordinary women of the people and considering the level of Angola's development, we were struck by the astounding

awareness of these women. But they still have great difficulties and in order to carry on the work they have started they need the fraternal help of their men comrades and the combined efforts of all the women.

Q. Comrade Cecile, what does the Federation see to be the importance of OMA in the general struggle for the emancipation of women in Africa and the world?

A. As the Angolan women's mass organisation, OMA is at present involved in an experience which holds our full attention on a worldwide level and also in relation to Africa, where many problems relating to the position of women in society, at work and in the family still remain to be solved. The fact that the leadership of the Women's International Democratic Federation unanimously decided that the visit to Angola should be made by the Secretary-General herself is a reflection of the importance the Federation attaches to OMA. Like our Vietnamese sisters, they are giving tangible proof of the contribution that women can make to the struggle of their people as a way of advancing the women's rights cause itself.

Q. Comrade Cecile, taking the world anti-imperialist strategy as a whole, what do you think to be the place held by the MPLA and the Angolan people on that combat front?

A. Since Angola is one of the largest countries in Africa and one of the richest, owing to its vast and only partially tapped resources, it offers brilliant prospects for the future. Moreover, its strategic position is of special importance to Southern Africa and, therefore, to all of Africa, which puts it in the forefront as far as its international role is concerned.

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DELEGATION VISITS ANGOLA

By fighting for the liberation of their country, the people of Angola, led by a unitary national liberation movement which, as we saw, is extremely popular, are making a great contribution to the overall struggle of the peoples against imperialism which, seeing its approaching defeat in Indochina, is increasingly concentrating its efforts and its attempts at interference on Africa.

Q. After your contact with MPLA militants, what do you think of the principles of the MPLA's political orientation in the independence struggle?

A. During our visit and the discussions we had with

for our visit, especially from the point of view of safety, protecting us from any contact with the Portuguese colonialist troops.

Q. Could you give us your impressions of the seminar jointly organised by OMA and the WIDF during your visit?

A. We found the OMA comrades who attended the seminar for 4 days to be full of good will and eager to benefit to the full from the experience of other women's organisations affiliated to the WIDF which for many years have been fighting with their people for their country's national liberation. They showed that they wanted to play



OMA and MPLA militants and with the Angolan people who received us in the liberated regions, we were able to see for ourselves that the struggle waged by the MPLA is a just struggle against colonialism and imperialism, waged in a spirit devoid of all racism and tribalism. Consequently, this fully corresponds to the concept of national liberation struggle which we uphold and which we call upon women to take an active part in.

Q. Did you note or hear of any influence in Angola of any organisations apart from the MPLA?

A. We walked for days inside Angola and we were able to question the people. From this we can state that no such influence exists. When people speak of national liberation in Angola, they speak of the MPLA.

Q. What can you say about the presence of the Portuguese?

A. Owing to the military successes of the MPLA, which has retained the military initiative, our Angolan comrades were able to ensure the best conditions

an even more effective part in the Angolan people's struggle. Of course they lack even the most basic things. But the WIDF has promised to help them to the best of its ability, as it did for our sisters in Indochina. We think such a seminar could be repeated with other Angolan women and we must say that we learnt a very great deal from it, since it gave us far more insight into the problems of Angolan women.

Q. Are you considering new forms of solidarity with our fighting people?

A. Of course after such a visit, after meeting the people we have met, after seeing the problems faced by the Angolan people, especially the women and children, it is logical that we should be considering new forms of solidarity, both political, moral and material. We are going to launch a big propaganda campaign on the Angolan people's struggle as quickly as possible and for this we will publish a booklet with the many photographs we took in Angola. We also have plans for the training of women cadres, especially midwives,

as well as for an international bank account for solidarity with the fighting Angolan women.

Q. Comrade Cecile, if you would like to send a message not only to the Angolan people, to the Organisation of Angolan Women, to those who were with you during your stay in Angola in the MPLA's liberated areas, but also to the women in the part still under Portuguese colonialist control who are also impatient to play their part in our national liberation cause, the microphone is yours.

A. First, we should like to address ourselves to all the OMA and MPLA comrades with whom we spent such unforgettable and inspiring days. To Comrade Tchiungue, who represented OMA at our side; to Comrade Chipenda, member of the CCPM and co-ordinator of the MPLA's mass movements, who showed us such kindness and did every thing in his power to help us in our task; to Comrade Dangereux, the political commissar who had the great responsibility of taking us into his country and returning us safe and sound to the comrades who couldn't come with us; to the comrades inside, Silivelli, Mankady, Dezoito de Maio, Quatro de Febrero, and especially Comrade Chapa Kisi, who gave us a magnificent demonstration of the participation of Angolan women in the national liberation struggle, who welcomed us with the military honours of a women's detachment; to Comrade Guayro of the Information Department, with a grateful and affectionate thought for the constant assistance he gave us; and finally, to all the comrades we saw, with whom we lived in an atmosphere of deep fraternity, we express our heartiest thanks and we wish them lots of success in their struggle and assure them that we will do all we can to justify the confidence they have placed in us and, through the solidarity of the women of the whole world, to help effectively to support their courageous and just struggle. To the Angolan women who are still under the yoke of Portuguese colonialism, we say have courage and hope, because the visit we have just made has further strengthened our conviction that this hope is justified, that victory is certain and that this victory will be that of all the peoples in the world who love justice, freedom and progress.

CHILDREN'S DAY

On 20 November 1959, seventy-eight nations proclaimed the Declaration of the Rights of Children at the United Nations General Assembly.

This Declaration states, and we quote: "The child shall be protected from practices which may foster racial, religious and any other form of discrimination. He shall be brought up in a spirit of understanding, tolerance, friendship among peoples, peace and universal brotherhood and in full consciousness that his energy and talents should be devoted to the service of his fellow men" (end of quotation).

On INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S DAY, it is impossible not to refer to the millions of children throughout the world who are deprived of the care they need for the full development of their abilities; the children who daily suffer terror and the effects of the aggressive wars of fascism, colonialism and racism. So many millions of children without food, clothing or shelter ... abandoned. Among these millions we included the Angolan children who are the innocent victims of colonialism, racism and the barbarous repression of the Portuguese soldiers.

There are countless numbers of Angolan children who die of hunger; lack of medical care, poverty, napalm burns, bombing raids and even under the machetes (pangas) of the sadistic murderers in the Portuguese colonial army. None of the Rights of Children proclaimed in the United Nations Declaration are respected in Angola.

Angolan children suffer racial discrimination in schools, churches and hospitals. In no aspect of the life they are forced to live in a colonial society do they meet with the spirit of "understanding, tolerance and friendship."

In the liberated areas of Angola, the MPLA gives special and loving care to educating and looking after the children who represent the future of our country and who are those who will continue the Angolan Revolution..

Unable to halt the expansion of the MPLA's liberated areas in Angola, the Portuguese war criminals have once again begun to spray herbicides and defoliants on our people's crops. Considerable acres of cassava, maize, sweet potatoes and fruit trees have already been destroyed. Furthermore, cattle and wild life in these areas show signs of poisoning. Fish in the rivers and lakes die in the first few days after the chemicals are sprayed. The chemicals also have very harmful effects on human beings, causing pulmonary constriction, digestive disorders and mouth bleeding. They caused congenital malformations in CHILDREN born of affected pregnant women.

As a result of these new crimes, the Angolan children in the liberated areas are now in an alarming state of hunger and none of the measures taken to counter this situation can have any immediate effect. Without urgent assistance, thousands of human beings -- men, women and CHILDREN -- will remain in a state of terrible distress while the colonialist criminals intensify their continuous bombing raids.

The Angolan children urgently appeal to all people of goodwill to help mount an immediate and a massive campaign for food and seeds for the victims of these crimes.

Message from Angolan youth

Message from the youth of Angola to all the peace and progress loving peoples.

BECAUSE the Angolan revolution is a link in the chain of the world revolution, the youth of Angola, who are fighting inside their country under the leadership of their vanguard, the MPLA, form an integral part of the youth of all countries who love peace, democracy and social progress.

Led by the MPLA, the youth of Angola are well aware of the political realities of the world youth, which helps them to solve many of their problems.

The relations which have been established between the youth of Angola and the various international youth organisations make it possible for young Angolans to know about the activities of other young people who are working for a better future, while at the same time the youth of the world are kept informed about the problems of the Angolan youth.

At a time when the barbarous fascist Portuguese colonialists are using chemical warfare in Angola, destroying crops in order to sow misery and famine in the areas under the control of our armed forces, at a time when the Portuguese colonialists are showing their savagery by burning our people



with napalm, never forgetting the suffering of the heroic brother people of Vietnam, the valiant Indo-chinese peoples' courageous struggle against US imperialism, the brave Palestinian people's liberation struggle and that of all the other peoples in Asia, Africa and Latin America who are fighting for their freedom, the youth of Angola reaffirm, before all the peoples in the world, their determination to fight colonialism, neo-colonialism and imperialism to the end.

The youth of Angola will always remember the active support of friendly countries and call upon all the peoples in the world who love peace, democracy and progress to help the Angolan people's liberation struggle.

TONY HALL TALKS TO MPLA's IKO CARREIRA

ANGOLANS FIGHT NEW RACIAL BARBARISM

Interview published in
"The Standard" (Tanzania)
April 23, 1971.

Q. After ten years of your armed struggle I believe the situation now is that the MPLA is controlling considerable areas of Angola — but that you face serious problems of food shortage because the Portuguese are using defoliants and napalm.

A. Yes.... today we control about one-third of our country. The front has advanced towards the centre of Angola, about 600 kilometres — or 45 day's march — from the Zambian border. From north to south the liberated area covers about double that distance.

The Portuguese thought that with the large infantry at their disposal, and a certain amount of mobility in transport they would be able to bar the way to our advance. But they realised they were not going to succeed this way, so they made a tremendous effort to develop their air force by buying bombers and helicopters.

And the country which has supplied Portugal with its most effective weapon, the helicopter, is France.

Recently the Portuguese have started using the SR 330 Puma. This is much larger than the Alouette. It can carry three times as many troops and has considerable fire power, with its 20 millimetre machine-gun and rocket.

Since 1968 the tactic has been massive bombing, followed by sending in commandos. They weren't able to stop the advance of our fighters this way either.

Now they are using the last weapon they have — famine. The destruction of all crops with defoliants. They want to destroy life in the liberated areas through hunger.

Only two-thirds of our crops in the liberated areas have been completely destroyed, and the destruction is continuing. The bush has lost most of its leaves.

They are throwing chemicals into the rivers to kill the fish. From helicopters they are shooting wild game, which is the source of meat for our guerrillas.

Q. This sounds like the second attempt in history to do away with a massive number of Angolan people. As we know the population has not yet recovered in size from the days of slavery. Where are these defoliants coming from?

A. It appears that the Portuguese can now manufacture defoliants themselves. But at first the defoliants came directly from the United States the same place where the Angolan slaves were sent ... There's one thing I'd like to add about this question of chemical weapons. Although they may be effective in our rear, in those areas where the population have no kind links with the Portuguese, if they were to start this tactic of chemical warfare in the area where we are now advancing they would be hitting the very people they claim they are fighting to defend.

Our situation is difficult, but we are continuing to advance. This doesn't effect the guerrilla so much as the population in the liberated areas. We are making a tremendous effort now to supply foodstuffs to these areas but we need more international help.

Q. What is the area over which they are spreading defoliant, and how many people are affected?



Iko Carreira is a member of the MPLA Executive Committee and of the movement's "High Command." In a life committed to Angolan liberation, he deserted the Portuguese Air Force on the orders of MPLA to join the armed struggle when it was launched in 1961.

A. It is not easy to estimate. They drop defoliants in all the areas where the people were growing their crops along the river banks. The liberated areas are in two districts, Cuando Cubango and Moxico, covering about 350,000 square kilometres. The last estimate of the population was 250,000 people, but we don't know how many have fled because of the devastation of their farms.

Q. How is it that you are able to operate a front so far into Angola, even though the enemy is trying to cut off your rear in this way?

A. The enemy tries but they are not going to succeed. They may burn our crops but we will grow more. In any case we are making this tremendous effort to supply the area with food.

We are also making big efforts to get the kind of arms that we need to shoot down planes — not old weapons of the first World War, but modern ones that will really be effective.

Q. You talked about the urgent need for international support to help you feed the people. In the same way you talk about the need for more and better arms. How can people around the world help the MPLA in this problem of supply?

A. Our struggle is part of the anti-imperialist struggle around the world, but is not as well known as the struggle in Vietnam or the Middle East. What friendly organisations and individuals can do is to help break down this silence around our struggle so we can get the aid we need so much to destroy this colonial monster.

Of course in a country like Tanzania where there is a party the political commissar should be the man trusted by the part. He is the man who introduces the party's directives for implementation.

In our country the political commissar is also responsible for liaison between the mass movements. But he is also the second in command of any unit, and his decision is always of very great importance in the decision of any organ of power.

It should be something similar for

independent countries who are going to organise themselves in this way. But I don't think one should make the political commissar the key man in the whole political-military organisation.

I think that the key to any organisation is a firm, clear and correct line, and good mobilisation. That is the key.

As far as arms are concerned, there is no African country which manufactures them. It will be necessary for the socialist countries to do more in their solidarity. This will come about not only through conviction and through internationalism, but also through pressure from friends — to make people realise the importance of helping more than they do at present.

About the Western countries we have no illusions. They are linked to Portugal through Nato and through their interests. Even so we ask the people of those countries to help with medicines and other similar supplies.

Q. The political and military orientation of liberation movements is of great interest to Tanzania at the moment. In his speech to introduce the Tanu Guidelines President Nyerere said: "In the great struggle before us the Party will be a liberation movement like Frelimo and MPLA. The Army will be the liberation army, the shield and power of the liberation..." What is a liberation army? How does it differ in structure and activity from the more traditional concept of a national army that African states inherited at independence?

A. We are touched by President Nyerere's clear understanding of the importance of revolutionary organisation — either to win independence or to keep it. The only way to win complete independence and keep it is to mobilise the masses of the people; to give them a correct political line, and to arm them. In other words no distinction should be made between what is political and what is military.

It is the coming together of these two which makes the strength of the

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THE NEW RACIAL BARBARISM

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people. Among us there is no such difference. There is no separate political and military hierarchy — the two are integrated. Those who go and attack the Portuguese barracks, the guerrillas, are at exactly the same level as those who defend the people, normally known as the militia. And those who can lead in a battle can also lead at a political meeting.

The regular fighters, the militia and those who are involved in education are closely inter related. The question of education, of justice, of mobilising people, of leadership — all these are completely integrated. The same people who are fighting will do this other work.

The only difference between the army and the militia is that the militia is more or less static, they stay to defend the people in the village. The guerrillas are more mobile.

Women are also mobilised, they also have military training and carry weapons, and even in Primary schools the pupils start to learn to handle weapons. We are a people in arms. Armed with a certain political ideology and also with guns. Our president is also commander of the armed forces.

Q. The next question may not be so relevant to you because you are in an armed struggle and people are highly mobilised — but how do you cope with the problem of arming people with guns when they are not already armed with understanding, with ideology?

A. I think in order to arm people for a struggle like this they have to have an ideology and the road ahead has to be absolutely clear. This is the prerequisite for arming the people. The worst thing is to give someone a weapon when he does not know what to use it for.

In our situation it is not difficult

the general movement. This should be taken advantage of.

Q. In his speech the President brought in liberation movements in two ways. He said that the army should be LIKE MPLA or Frelimo, but he also said that the struggle in Southern Africa is Tanzania's struggle. The implication is that any setback in your struggle is also Tanzania's loss; that your victory is Tanzania's. In what ways, do you think, can the Southern African struggle be shown as relevant and immediate to Tanzanians in their everyday lives?

A. President Nyerere has always understood very well the importance of the struggle in Southern Africa. We are talking about frontiers which were arbitrarily established by the colonial powers. It is simply a fact that Africa will never be genuinely independent until the whole of Africa is independent.

What is now known as "Pale Power" in Southern Africa endangers the whole of independent Africa. Therefore the struggle which is being waged in the Portuguese colonies in Namibia, in Rhodesia and in South Africa is also the struggle of the Tanzanian people.

I think Tanzanians should feel they are part of the liberated areas of Angola. And like the population in our liberated region Moxico, they should produce more than they need, in order to help the fighters.

Sometimes here and sometimes in Zambia we are looked upon as people from outside ... unfortunate refugees who are forced to take up arms... In Angola if there is difficulty and distress in one area, then the people in another area will make an extra effort to help them. The people of Tanzania should feel the same way.

Q. I think President Nyerere has led the way to a different attitude to liberation movements by calling them the vanguard of the struggle. Not only because they are on the front line but also because of their level of awareness and mobilisation.

A. Well, we are sure that Africa is going to become much more united. We have the same confidence in the Tanzanian people as we have in our own people.

Q. What is the role of the political commissar in the fighting forces? What is his power? This may become relevant in the Tanzanian situation...

A. I don't know if our experience can serve as an example for a country like Tanzania, since we are a liberation movement. But the political commissar is the person who gives political guidance among the forces. He directs and controls the force politically. He is the political representative of the leadership of the organisation.



War Communique

HELIPORTED Portuguese terrorist troops attacked the Centre of Revolutionary Instruction (C.I.R.) in Zone "C" of our Third Region. The enemy were driven back and suffered an uncounted number of losses.

The M.P.L.A. mourns the death of Pioneer Augusto Machele, who showed great bravery in defending his school, which is the same as saying the MPLA's school and that of the Angola people.

Augusto Machele is yet another child who has been cut down by the Portuguese colonialist bands of assassins, who try to show their courage by attacking minors or settlements made up of defenceless old people and women.

In memory of Augusto Machele, action and ever more action to make his total sacrifice useful to our people.

VICTORY IS CERTAIN

The Executive Committee of
the MPLA

Angola,
22 March 1971.

to make our people understand what exploitation is, and who the exploiter is. In an independent country it is rather more complicated. But in an African country which has not long emerged from colonialism there are still elements which can make this explanation easier.

Of course the image of modern towns, and African administrators enjoying privileges can hide the real truth — that most African states are still dependent.

Some leaders are afraid of announcing an ideology which will mobilise the masses. If the leaders don't find an ideological line the masses will. What is needed is a vast campaign of mobilisation and explanation, so the masses can see what has to be done to continue the struggle which the independent countries still have to wage.

There are already now in the towns a certain number of workers who can easily follow this line. They can give a firmness, a definite orientation to



War Communiques

THE progress of the war calls for action and ever more action corresponding to each stage of its development. The MPLA, the vanguard of the Angolan people, is using every means to fight an enemy characterised by monstrous crimes, cold-blooded murder and the use of genocide. The struggle being led by the MPLA is, therefore, not only a war for the liberation of our homeland, but a fight against institutionalised banditry, against crime raised to the level of law and against murder transformed into Portugal's system and method for remaining in Africa.

During the period between January/March 1971 there were important operations, among many others, the following:

On 9 January, 3 enemy vehicles proceeding from Kuito Kuanaval barracks to Lipiri entered a minefield laid by our sappers near the Nsito river. One vehicle was completely demolished. Six of its occupants were killed and 3 gravely wounded.

On 10 January, MPLA guerrillas attacked colonialist forces quartered at Chief Kavanga's concentration camp. The enemy suffered losses. We captured uniforms and 31 head of cattle.

On 11 January, near the River Kakele, there was a clash between our forces and a large Portuguese terrorist



group. There were losses on both sides.

On 14 January, a motorised enemy column hit a mine laid by our guerrillas on the road from Samahina to Cazage. One vehicle was destroyed and there was a unknown number of dead and wounded.

On 23 January, in the area of Kuito Kuanaval, a group of heliported colonialist troops were ambushed by our guerrillas. The Portuguese terrorists suffered four dead and two wounded.

On the same day, heliported colonialist troops attacked a settlement inhabited only by civilians -- old people, women and children. During the attack so characteristic of all colonialist operations, the only guerrilla comrade who was close to the village at that time rushed to help

the defenceless people and was killed. Our comrade, Kahanga Makaio, from Mavinga, forced the troops to retreat until a treacherous bullet killed him. He died gloriously.

During the same period, the MPLA's fighting forces attacked the Kapoxi concentration camp. Five civilians who were being held prisoner there were released.

Also in this period, MPLA guerrillas attacked the ndandanda (concentration camp) of Chief Kandondo, inflicting losses on the enemy and taking colonialist soldier David Muchongo prisoner.

On 24 January, our fighters attacked the Portuguese colonialist camp on the river Wefu. The enemy sustained 3 colonialist troops killed and 1 wounded. Later in the day, again in the Kuito Kuanaval area, MPLA fighters attacked a "ndandanda" (strategic hamlet) and released 3 Angolans who were being held prisoner there.

On 27 January, an ambush prepared with mines laid along the lines of retreat inflicted 5 dead and 6 wounded on uniformed colonialists reinforced by a large group of Katangese mercenaries. Our forces seized war material and equipment.

On 1 February, an enemy platoon hit a minefield laid by our sappers, while the remainder of the column fell into an ambush near the River Canage, an area under MPLA control. Verified enemy losses were 6 dead and 7 wounded.

On 3 February, the Kari-pande barracks was attacked. 185 shells destroyed all the barracks, the radio house, one tractor and the landing strip. Special mention should be made of the participation of some of the members of



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War Communiques

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an MPLA women's brigade in this attack.

On 6 February, colonialist planes bombed the Chalala area. Three of the bombs failed to explode and were taken by our guerrillas for identification. There were no victims of the bombing raid.

On 8 February, 2 jeeps were ambushed on the road from Sange Planicie to Caiojemi. There were six dead and a number of wounded.

On 11 February, in the area of the River Canage, a company of dragoons was ambushed by our forces, suffering 3 dead and 5 wounded. The MPLA guerrillas mourn 1 loss. Again in the River Canage area, the MPLA fighters attacked a bivouac inflicting 10 dead and 14 wounded on the Portuguese terrorists. This large-scale operation caused total disarray in the enemy ranks. We mourn 1 loss as a result of an accident with a weapon.

On 15 February, at 9 a.m., a column of Unimog was ambushed. There was an unverified number of dead and wounded. One of our guerrillas was wounded.

On 24 February, a heliported company attempted to attack an MPLA guerrilla detachment east of the Luvuel barracks. This foolhardiness cost the colonialists 5 dead and 7 wounded. When they retreated in disarray, one of the platoons entered a minefield and suffered a further uncounted number of losses.

On 5 March, our guerrillas spotted a group of colonialist murderers heliported from the Muie barracks to the banks of the Kutaihi river for the purpose of attacking an MPLA detachment. Counter-offensive measures were taken immediately and the MPLA fighters gave the terrorists the punishment they deserved. Enemy casualties were 3 killed and 5 wounded.

On 7 March, as the group of terrorist mercenaries were preparing to regain their iron and concrete enclosure,

they were once again ambushed by our fighters, suffering a further one dead and 4 wounded.

On 7 March, at 11.20 a.m., an enemy boat on its way to the ruins of the Karipande barracks was sunk with its cargo of fascists and war material. It was not possible to verify the number of losses, owing to the rapidity with which the colonialist vessel sunk. Colonialist soldiers following some distance behind in another boat attempted an encirclement manoeuvre, as a result of which



there were a further 3 losses on the enemy side and one of our valiant fighters was wounded.

On the following day, a reinforced group from the Muie barracks was spotted on the way to the Kusihi river. An ambush was laid about 2 km, from the colonialist barracks, and the MPLA fighters severely punished the Portuguese terrorists, inflicting on them an unverified number of casualties. The enemy fled in disorder and we seized 5 offensive grenades and 90 rounds of FNM ammunitions.

On 9 March, an enemy convoy of Unimog vehicles set off an anti-car mine laid by the MPLA sappers and one of the vehicles was destroyed. That same night, and during the morning of the 10th, an MPLA detachment attacked an enemy bivouac with heavy machine-gun and bazooka fire, inflicting heavy losses on the colonialist enemy.

On 29 March, at 8 p.m.

combined MPLA forces attacked the Lumbala Leste colonialist barracks, containing a company reinforced by naval gunners. The MPLA artillery destroyed more than one third of the barracks infrastructure, silencing enemy riposte and inflicting dozens of dead and wounded on the Portuguese terrorists. Our forces came to within 200 metres of the enemy barracks, in open field, in order to unleash the violent attack which destroyed this colonialist island in MPLA-controlled territory.

Our attack forced the colonialists to involve large-scale forces, and it was also a tribute which our guerrillas paid to Commander Hoji ia Henda and to 14 April, Angolan Youth Day.

However we mourn three losses, before whom Angola in arms and our people bow their heads in gratitude, in their unshakable determination to continue to flagellate colonialism until it is driven out of our heroic land for all time.

During the following days, colonialist naval gunners patrolled the Zambezi, Xifumage and Luena rivers and the Lucusse and Saliente de Cazombo roads, searching out guerrilla paths. Acting against these movements was successful.

The MPLA is fighting and it rejects colonialist manoeuvring. The MPLA is destroying the colonialist bastions. Bit by bit, the MPLA is liberating Angola from the clutches of colonialism.

VICTORY IS CERTAIN

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