



OMA

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LUCRECIA PAIM



DEOLINDA RODRIGUES



TERESA AFONSO

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ENGRACIA dos SANTOS

W O M E N



IRENE COHEN

The 2nd March, the day of Angolan Women is associated with the life and death of five young Angolan women in the service of the cause of the liberation of our country. More Angolan women have since lost their lives for the same end despite the tragic and heroic circumstances under which these five brave militants of MPLA and OMA died. And their names will always remain engraved in our memories and in the History of Angola. DEOLINDA RODRIGUES, IRENE COHEN, ENGRACIA DOS SANTOS, TERESA AFONSO and LUCRECIA PAIM were the first women comrades to be part of an MPLA guerrilla detachment.

After intensive politico-military preparation they became part of the KAMY column destined to carry out their functions with their Angolan sisters in the First Military Region of MPLA. Unfortunately, owing to circumstances beyond their control they were not able to fulfill their mission. On the 2nd March 1967 they fell into the hands of the counter-revolutionaries of "upa" and were imprisoned in the Kinkuzu concentration camp together with other MPLA comrades-amongst whom were Commander BENEDITO, SIMAO NELUMBA and ALEIXO PASCOAL--.

There they suffered the most extreme physical and moral tortures, to such a point that one of them-ENGRACIA-lost her reason. Despite rigorous isolation during almost three years of imprisonment these valiant daughters of the Angolan people maintained a comportment befitting to militants of MPLA.

Their morale and political consciousness remained irrepressible. Neither treats nor false promises could make them depart from the political line of MPLA and the ideals of true Angolan patriots.

DEOLINDA RODRIGUES was a member of the Steering Committee of MPLA until the First National Conference. As a Leader and one of the founders of the Organisation of Angolan Women-OMA- this comrade gave her utmost dedication and her knowledge to the cause of Angolan Women.

IRENE COHEN was also an exemplary militant of MPLA, carrying out the work of secretary of the representation of our Movement, in Brazzaville. In OMA she always took an active part with dedication and readiness to fulfill any task given her.

ENGRACIA DOS SANTOS and TERESA AFONSO were part of the first group who attended the CIR, (Centre of Revolutionary Instruction) course. There they earned the friendship and sympathy of all the comrades because of their application to their studies and to all the jobs which

were assigned to them as militants of MPLA. They fulfilled their duties in OMA with the same enthusiasm.

LUCRECIA PAIN who had studied nursing was preparing to practise her profession amongst the people living in the zone controlled by MPLA in the First Region.

DEOLINDA, IRENE, ENGRACIA, TERESA and LUCRECIA assassinated in a cowardly manner by executioners in the service of the traitor Holden Roberto, are for us an example of Revolutionary Angolan Women, ready to sacrifice their very lives for the liberation of their People.

The 2nd March will always be remembered as a glorious date symbolizing the courage and patriotism of Angolan Women. Thus it was that last year OMA solemnly proclaimed this date the DAY OF ANGOLAN WOMEN, thus honoring the participation of Angolan women in the armed struggle against Portuguese colonialism. This participation is growing day by day in the zones controlled by MPLA, where the women are to be found working in all the spheres of the struggle and the life of the people.

They are already carrying out many tasks such as: cultivating the fields, transporting supplies and munitions, feeding the guerrillas, supplying information about the enemy working as nurses teachers etc. Militants of OMA are at present under military training and some comrades have already even taken part in military actions.

Although much has already been done, for us it is still not enough. Difficulties and death do not intimidate us and we are determined to broaden our activities until final Victory is achieved, preparing ourselves for a new life in a free Angola.

LONG LIVE THE STRUGGLE OF THE
ANGOLAN PEOPLE!

12th FEBRUARY

Ten years have passed, ten years indeed, full of indescribable sacrifices and heroic and often anonymous actions, ten years during which the fertile land of Angola has been daily stained with the noble blood of the best sons of our People in this task, this noble but difficult task to fulfill in this generation, the task we have undertaken: the liberation of our country from foreign rule.

Ten years initiated on the bloody night of the 4th February 1961, when the first groups of Angolan nationalists, led by some MPLA elements of the clandestine section of Luanda, for the first time launched the slogan, that soon reverberated over the whole country that Angola is ours, Victory or Death.

The struggle has not been easy. We have all been aware of this since the first moment when small and underdeveloped Portugal was joined by her NATO allies accomplices in the plunder of the African colonies. It was imperative that we prepare ourselves for a prolonged struggle, a struggle, a struggle on many combat fronts against Portuguese colonialism, one of the most brutal and insane forms of European exploitation in Africa, but also an unrelenting struggle against racialism and tribalism, cleverly manipulated by Portugal to divide the people and thus perpetuate their domination over us.

On all fronts it was manifest that real dynamism and revolutionary discipline are indispensable so that racialism and tribalism should be exposed as the tools of the enemy to weaken the combat effectiveness of our People. Our Movement has sought to raise a national consciousness overriding "tribal" divisions and uniting all the ethnic groups in Angola. To the blind and criminal racialism of the insane gangs of "upa", MPLA responded with a programme and a line of political orientation which reinforced the struggle against colonialism



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INSIDE OUR COUNTRY

On the 16th February 1971 the fighting forces of MPLA once again attacked the Portuguese Post of Karipande, a barracks of such strategic importance. At 5.10 mortar and cannon fire destroyed Karipande.

Three munitions stores were hit, and a dormitory and a 15 metre wall protecting one of the units were destroyed.

The radio installations were totally wiped out as well as a tractor parked in the middle of the barracks.

The guerrillas of MPLA ended the action at 5.35. Twenty five minutes later two planes carried away the Portuguese dead and wounded.

We commend the exemplary comportment of five militants of OMA who took part in this magnificent combat.

ONLY ONE END: FREE ANGOLA

THE TRIAL OF ANGOLAN PATRIOTS

On the 11th February the trial of ten Angolan patriots, amongst whom are two women, began in the Boa Hora, court in Lisbon. Through this farce designed to mislead public opinion the Portuguese colonialists are trying to create the belief that justice is in force in their country.

ANGOLAN PATRIOTS ARE NOT PORTUGUESE!

They are being tried by foreigners. This trial is an affront to the peoples of the Portuguese colonies because it is not legal. The only crime that the Angolan patriots have committed has been to desire the liberation of their beloved and respected motherland ANGOLA.

During the first sessions, which took place in the presence of only 24 people, including the Portuguese lawyers and three international advocates as observers, the REVEREND PINTO DE ANDRADE, HONOURARY PRESIDENT OF MPLA, one of the accused rejected the charges levelled against him.

The contribution of Angolans to the liberation of these detained patriots is a duty demanded of all.

These imprisoned Angolan patriots deserve all our consideration because it was their desire of the liberation of our people that brought them into the sinister dungeons of the Portuguese political-police, where they have been incarcerated for more than a year.

The two courageous Angolan women who are amongst the ten accused in this trial are:

MARIA JOSE PINTO COELHO DA SILVA, aged 26, a second year student in the Higher Institute of Economics.

DIANA MARINA DIAS ANDRINGA, aged 22, a publisher editor.

All these brave sons and daughters of the Angolan People are accused of serving MPLA and face the possibility of heavy prison terms which, under Portuguese law, can be as long as indefinite imprisonment.

Demonstrations of support and solidarity for the prisoners by organisations and international personalities have been numerous amongst these we quote a telegram which the Women's International Democratic Federation sent the Organisation of Angolan Women:

"Profoundly indignant at court case in Lisbon against Andrade and nine fighters for liberation of Angola, WIDF has sent protest to Ministry Justice Portugal stop demanding suspension of trial and immediate release of prisoners exercising their rights guaranteed by UN to actively defend sovereign independence their country stop WIDF assures solidarity Angolan struggle for national independence please convey our feelings solidarity to families of prisoners signed CECIL HUGEL, GENERAL SECRETARY.

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within the framework of the world struggle against imperialism.

In Angola a firm politico-military action against unbridled tribalism was followed by MPLA, in which the enemy was identified as the Portuguese colonialists and not according to the colour of skin or place of origin. The enemy was identified according to his social position in a system expressed in terms of colonizer and colonized, possessor and dispossessed.

Today, together with the other Portuguese colonies of Mozambique, Guinea Bissau and Cap Verde, the struggle led by MPLA in Angola constitutes the most dynamic and forceful continent of Africa. For the seriousness of our work and its objective results during these ten years of struggle, our organisation has seen its prestige strengthened amongst the friends who have helped us since the

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The North Americans, policing the world for imperialism, are sowing death destruction across our planet. We all, know the terrible crimes committed by Nixon and his cohorts, their aggressions against the peoples of South East Asia (Indochina); their terrorist bombardment of North and South Vietnam, killing peoples and destroying cities; their devastation of fields and forests with

toxic chemicals, their murder of countless numbers of children, old people, men and women. Their crimes however are committed not only in such places but even in their own country. Nixon uses fascist methods of racial discrimination and suppression of 25 million Afro-Americans in the United States, and he is responsible for the criminal neglect and misery of these human beings.

Against all this injustice and cruelty Angela Davis revolted. Born on 26th January 1944 in Birmingham Alabama, USA, she was an excellent pupil and, thanks to her ability was able to gain admission to Brandeis University. Owing to her high marks, she went from Brandeis to the Sorbonne in Paris where she perfected her French. From this period dated her interest in philosophy. After the Sorbonne she went to Goethe University in Frankfurt where she studied German and lectured on Kant and Hegel. At this time she read much and studied the philosophical works of Marx and Engels in the original. After several years away she returned to the United States to present her doctoral thesis on the subject of "Analysis of Kant on the violence in the French revolution". In 1969 she applied for a teaching post in the faculty of philosophy in Los Angeles, which she received thanks to her excellent results in her studies. With her militant consciousness she was untiring defender of the rights of man and enjoyed the respect of all youth, regardless of their colour.

The young professor, only 25 years old, had begun her work in the university when the North American secret police - the FBI - were informed that she was a communist.

The Chancellor of the University demanded that Angela make a public declaration affirming that she was not affiliated to the communist Party.

But lies and hypocrisy are in total contradiction to the sincere and strong character of the young Professor. "I declare with pride that I am a member of the Communist Party of the United States, thanks to which I have been able to double my effectiveness in the struggle for the liberation of the black people" Angela wrote in reply.

This declaration earned her dismissal. But the teachers and students of the university expressed their dissatisfaction with this measure of the university Council and in October 1969, the teaching body decided by a vote of 539 against 12 to condemn the decision taken by the council.

So Angela was reinstated.

At the end of the term on 8th June 1970 however, the members of the Council decided not to extend Angela Davis' contract with the University owing to her activities "outside the University".

What is more the right wing extremists, were not satisfied with taking away her position in the university but proposed to shut her mouth once and for all even to eliminate her physically. Thus begun the battle against Angela Davis.

She was blamed with the events that occurred on 7th August 1970, in San Rafael California in which a young Afro-American, Jonathan Jackson, aged 17 entered the building of the court armed for the purpose of liberating young black prisoners. Four deaths resulted amongst them that of the young Jackson himself.

In fact, Angela Davis had nothing to do with this affair, nor was she even in the area when the incident took place.

Futhermore this is not the methods of the communist party for achieving their ends but through organisation of the masses.

It is also well known that in the majority of the states of the United States it is possible to buy arms freely.

If Angela Davis -as she has been accused- had

bought a revolver it is very possible that this was on account of the high frequency of political assassination in the US and the repeated threats against her own life. That she took this precaution any measure is now being used as a pretext to brand Angela as a "dangerous delinquent".

On the 9th August 1970 the FBI included Angela Davis on the list of the "ten most wanted criminals" in the US.

Angela tried to go into hiding which she later explained as follows:

"If I had surrendered freely to Reagan and his hangmen when they issued the detention order, it would have meant handing myself over voluntarily to the executioners".

Angela Davis was sent to prison for being a negro, a communist and passionate defender of the black people deprived of all rights. Angela was imprisoned because she fought against the American war of aggression in Indochina and because she fought for peace and progress for mankind.

And Angela, thanks to her wide knowledge and her forceful personality had influenced extensive numbers of youth. All this represented a danger to the repressive social system of Nixon and his clique.

For the women of the whole world who love peace and progress, Angela, is a symbol of heroism and courage. Hers is a life that the American assassins cannot destroy. On the 26th January on the occasion of Angela's birthday, the Organisation of Angolan Women-OMA- sent a telegram to the American President Nixon, demanding Angela Davis' immediate release.

OMA also appeals to all the world organisations which are struggling for justice and peace to make ever greater pressures on Nixon for Angela Davis' release.

beginning. This prestige has even reached the so-called western world, the bulwark upon which Portuguese colonialism is desperately leaning to escape condemnation as an aberrant system which not only oppresses the colonised peoples but which holds out no hopes for their very own people who are suffocating in an ever more degrading misery.

1970 saw Portuguese colonialism being severely condemned by the most respected voices in the western world: Pope Paul VI by receiving the leaders of the nationalist movements of the three Portuguese colonies wanted to show us his unequivocal sympathy.

Of equal significance the symbolic help offered by the Churches Ecumenical Council by the meeting in Rome of the first International Conference of solidarity with the struggle of the peoples of Angola, Guinea Bissau and Mozambique. In addition, at the beginning of this year the international support of our just struggle was further reinforced by the surprising declaration of Queen Juliana of the Netherland, following which was the position taken by the Security Council of the UN in regard to the abortive invasion of the Republic of Guinea by commandos armed and trained by Portuguese officials.

On this date, the 2nd March, which we commemorate the day of Angolan Women, we are happy to note solidarity and material and moral support which all national and international women's organisations are giving us in our difficult struggle. For us the women of Angola engaged at the side of our husbands, and brothers, in the most trying moments of our existence, this solidarity should be manifested in a concrete form, in a manner so as to permit the realisation of the tasks which we fulfill and which we will carry out to the End, come what may.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

For the 8th March 1971, the sixty first anniversary of the establishment of International Women's Day, the Organisation of Angolan Women salute the women of the whole world and their female organisations.

Through determined endeavour in the political, economic, social and cultural spheres, the women of today are coming to achieve equality with their menfolk!

Women today are participating courageously in the struggle for national independence, for social progress, and for democracy and peace. A movement of solidarity in the defense of their rights and of the rights of their people, unites the women of the five Continents and the justice of their demands endows them with an ever-increasing strength.

We the women of Angola, engaged in our peoples struggle for national independence feel particularly close to our sisters in Africa, in the Middle-East, and in Indochina who are bravely struggling against colonialism, neo-colonialism and racial discrimination, against zionism and aggressive Yankee imperialism.

Our sympathy and solidarity goes similarly to the women of Europe who never tire in their activities for social justice and peace, and of those who are participating actively in the struggle for political and economic independence in Africa Asia and Latin America for democracy and progress against the vested interests of imperialism.

Our sympathy and solidarity goes out also to the women of North America who are so determined in their demonstrations against the Indochina war against racial discrimination and for the development of democracy. We also express our solidarity with those Australian women who fight incessantly for justice and freedom.

CMA also takes this opportunity to express our feelings of deepest gratitude to all those Women's Organisations who have given us political and material support.

In these these thanks we should like to mention in particular the Women's International Democratic Federation and the Conference of African Women who have made every effort to show their ever active solidarity with us in our struggle against Portuguese colonialism.

This year 1971, which the UN has declared the year of struggle for national independence against colonialism, apartheid, and racial discrimination and all forms of fascism, the women of Angola sincerely desire that all these scourges cease to torment Humanity and that there be peace, justice and freedom for all the peoples of the World.

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WE WILL WIN!

THE VISIT OF THE GENERAL SECRETARY OF
W . I . D . F .

The Organisation of Angolan Women -O.M.A.- will shortly receive a visit by the General Secretary of the Women's International Federation, Mrs Cecile Hugel, who is coming to Lusaka in order to make contact with militants of the Liberation Movements of ANGOLA, MOZAMBIQUE, SOUTH AFRICA, NAMIBIA and ZIMBABWE.

During her visit, Mrs Cecil Hugel, is intending to meet with women from the above named countries in order to be able to improve the conditions under which we are to organise our common activities within the framework of the International Year of Struggle against racism, apartheid and colonialism.

UNITED : WE WILL WIN.