



10 DECEMBER CELEBRATED AT AN MPLA PRODUCTION BASE

A vast democratic movement has been started on the Northern Front in which the masses have been called upon to undertake criticism and self-criticism and to study with the Movement's leadership the most effective ways of demolishing the enemy's fierce offensive. Our President started this "readjustment movement", and since he was at this production base on 10 December, the anniversary of the founding of the MPLA, we asked him to write a few lines for our wall newspaper.

FOR ANGOLA FOR THE PEOPLE EVER ONWARDS TO VICTORY

The concrete conditions of our people's history made it possible to create the MPLA in 1956, and since then it has been the heroic vanguard which has resisted Portuguese oppression in our land, arms in hand.

Portuguese colonialism and its best ally, imperialism, have not been able to avoid the victorious waves of the MPLA and neither have they halted the political advance of the Angolan people towards independence.

Encircled on various occasions by the enemies of our country, the MPLA has already succeeded in overcoming great difficulties in order to build upon them new and more important victories.

And also today, attacked on all sides by aggressive imperialism, the MPLA constitutes the sole politico-military force which can guarantee the Angolan people's liberation, holding high the banner of progress in the glorious course of the struggle.

Celebrating the 17th anniversary of the founding of our Movement at a production base to which more and more militants are daily coming in a steady flow is evidence of a correct popular line. And the Readjustment started on this front opens up even greater prospects for strengthening the MPLA through true democracy and internal unity, uniting within it the will, intelligence and energy of its militants, so as to deal constant blows against the enemy until their total defeat. Difficulties do not close the way ahead. Shortcomings cannot defeat the memory of the heroes. And the strength of the people, surging ever more proudly to the fore, is leading every militant to further victorious action.

On this 17th anniversary of the founding of the MPLA, it can assert itself further and with greater clarity, shaking off the uncertainties of an imperialist offensive. For Angola, for the people, ever onwards to Victory!

DAY-TO-DAY LIFE AT AN MPLA PRODUCTION BASE

At five o'clock in the morning the comrades stand in formation and sing our Movement's anthem, after which the most important events at the base related and the problems to be solved. Then the daily tasks are assigned.



The hoisting of the flag.



Apart from meeting our vital needs, agricultural work is a means of educating our militants.



Everyone is assigned morning tasks. These comrades are cutting timber for use in building work.



Political education is an intrinsic part of our struggle.



On our wall newspaper the opinions of our comrades reflect the people's full participation in the mass movement.



Extending literacy to our whole people is one of our most important goals.

During a moment of relaxation, we asked comrade M. Nelumba, President of one of the OMA branches in the Second Politico-Military Region, to answer a few questions for our bulletin. Our colleague put the following questions to her in an atmosphere of frank comradeship:

Q. The present time is one of great historic importance to our Movement and people, since large-scale transformations in our country can already be seen ahead. This is why the enemy is doing everything to try to weaken the MPLA in order to impose on our country solutions which would not serve our people's interests and against which we have been fighting for these thirteen years of politico-military struggle.

As a long-standing OMA militant and leader, how do you think we should oppose the enemy?

A. I think we should analyse all our shortcomings and impart dynamism to the war. Our soldiers must be constantly politicised, so that they are always clear as to why they are fighting and know who are our enemies and the kind of traps they set for us. We must foster the true unity of our people, thwarting the enemy's divisive attempts. A politicised and united people cannot be defeated.

Q. What should OMAs' role be in defending the gains already won by the MPLA, both politico-military and social, in the face of the enemy's insidious attempts?

A. We must be more vigilant, so that there is no room for traitors among us, and more active, showing more initiative in work, making a greater contribution to the war in material and moral support for the guerrillas, and stand firm in confronting the enemy, arms in hand, like so many other women in the world have done. Vietnam is an encouragement to us. To live or to die with the MPLA, the vanguard of our fighting people.

Q. Comrade, what do you think of the difficulties arising for the MPLA on all sides. Is it because our political line is incorrect, or precisely because it is correct, progressive and upholds the vital interests of our people, and therefore does not suit the colonialists and the monopolies which exploit our resources?

A. It is precisely because our political line is correct, because we want our people to have a decent and independent line, without servility, that the colonialists and imperialists are hatching problems for us on all sides, trying to weaken and destroy us. For example, why are they fostering tribalism at a time when we are building the Angolan nation? The colonialists have never respected the different ethnic groups in our country, their languages, religions or culture. Why are they now fomenting these divisions? The answer is clear: to divide and rule!

Since our people are vigilant and know that the major problem is to defeat colonialism and that all other problems will be solved later, in accordance with the MPLA's progressive line, we will be invincible!

With the potential strength in us and with our Movement to channel it, we shall inflict ever greater defeats on the enemy and guide our people to final victory.

Q. Last July the President of the MPLA was received by eminent personalities in Belgium and Algeria, that is, the leaders of progressive parties and trade unions and government officials, and Cardinals Sueneny of Belgium and Duval of Algeria.

The enemy are making dirty propaganda against our Movement, but the MPLA has tremendous respect and prestige internationally. What do you think this respect and support are due to, comrade?

A. To the serious and honest efforts of our leaders. Honest people in the world recognise our tenacity, our sincerity, our just desire for independence in waging a war as a means to achieve the peace and dignity to which all peoples in the world are entitled.

Q. This is not the first time that our Movement has had difficulties. In fact we could say what they have existed since the start of our struggle. However, there is one great victory to be pointed out, which is that the people want to advance united, calling upon all true fighters and nationalists to join the struggle.

Do you think that victory will belong to the MPLA and that our Movement will have realised its tremendous historic mission of uniting around a common goal people of different races, cultures and social classes, its mission not only for Angola but for Africa?

A. Yes, I think that victory belongs to us and that all true patriots will find their place in the MPLA, and we shall all defeat Portuguese colonialism.

Hope Base, 29 November 1973.

MILITARY BALANCE SHEET FOR 1973

Apart from the MPLA's political victories, among them the clandestine struggle in the towns (giving rise to demonstrations and mass strikes), the renewed increase in military operations is continuing, showing yet against the tenacity of the Angolan people. The MPLA's fighting forces and the Angolan people are prompt in retaliating against the enemy's most diverse forms of attack, continuously inflicting defeats on the colonialist oppressors.

The military Balance Sheet for 1973 is quite clear:

Type of operation	1973	1st Quarter		2nd Quarter		3rd Quarter		4th Quarter	
		Absolute numbers	%	Absolut numbers	%	Absolute numbers	%	Absolute numbers	%
Attacks on barracks	14	6	43	2	14	2	14	4	29
Ambushes ..	41	21	51	10	24	5	12	5	12
Helicopters shot down ..	3	3	100	—	—	—	—	—	—
Vehicles destroyed	31	8	26	4	13	3	10	16	52
Bridges destroyed	7	1	14	3	43	2	29	1	14
Radio sets captured	8	8	100	—	—	—	—	—	—
Large-scale mine operations ..	34	8	24	13	38	5	15	8	24
Enemy troops put out of action	700	180	26	214	31	56	7	250	36
Assorted weapons captured ..	321	106	33	109	34	21	7	85	26
Ammunition captured ..	3,500	1,200	34	1,020	29	620	18	740	21
Angolans freed	491	112	23	86	18	36	11	237	48

The MPLA'S fighting forces and the Angolan people are therefore standing firm in their unshakable determination to carry on the fight until final victory.



NEWS ITEMS

Our country

Following the strike of the Luanda workers and their resounding victory, Angolan women encouraged by the victories already achieved marched through the streets of Malange, courageous and determined, demanding higher wages. The MPLA's clandestine cells are carrying out their historic duty.

In recent months many Angolans have come to swell the ranks of the MPLA, some from inside our country, some who fled from Portugal where they were studying, and others returned from Europe.



SOLIDARITY WITH OUR STRUGGLE

Portugal

The Patriotic Front for the Liberation of Portugal has sent us a message of full support for our Movement, making special mention of our President, Dr. Agostinho Neto, as a great African political figure, the incontestable leader of the Angolan people's national liberation struggle, under whose leadership the MPLA will push on to final victory. We shall publish this message of support in our next issue, because of its historic significance to our people and to the Portuguese people.



On the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the decade of struggle against racism and racial discrimination decreed by the UN, twenty-nine parties, trade unions and organisations in France expressed their solidarity with the struggle of the peoples fighting apartheid and Portuguese colonialism, and denounced the US, Britain, France, Italy and the Federal Republic of Germany for the support they give to Portugal, South Africa and Rhodesia. These trade unions and other organisations, "conscious of the particular responsibility of the French government, are responding to the appeal for solidarity with the peoples who are victims of apartheid and Portuguese colonialism issued by the UN and OAU Conference held in Oslo in February 1973". Representatives of the organisations signed a document which was issued to the public and deposited at the Hotel Matignon for French Prime Minister Messmer. They condemned apartheid and Portuguese colonialism and pledged to continue to increase their active solidarity with our peoples. They decided to hold a national symposium in the next few months with a view to further events. They called upon all interested organisations to join them in their action.

Reporting on this statement by French progressives, "Le Monde" of 14 December 1973 showed its importance, coming as it does from the very centre of support for Portuguese colonialism. We also welcome the fact that Christian organisations were associated with this act of solidarity with our struggle.

MAY ALL THOSE WHO UPHOLD MAN'S FREEDOM JOIN US!

International Community recognises Liberation Movements

At the last meeting of the United Nations General Assembly, the Portuguese delegation was not allowed to refer to the Portuguese colonies but only to Portugal, following the amendment adopted forbidding Portugal to speak on behalf of the illegally occupied African countries, the liberation movements being regarded as the sole legal representatives of the fighting peoples in the Portuguese colonies.

This resolution is yet another important victory for our people.

★ PORTUGUESE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN OPEN CONFLICT WITH CAETANO

According to a Milan publication, "Europa", the Cardinal Patriarch of Lisbon, Antonio Ribeiro, who had an audience with Pope Paul VI on 20 October last year, has asked for the Pope's help after a highly-charged meeting with Caetano, returning to Rome for further discussions with the Pope. "Europa" adds that present tension between the Church and the fascist government is due to the fact that the Cardinal wanted to publish facts on the crimes committed by colonialist soldiers against the peoples in the colonies.

The Cardinal asked Catholic papers to publish these facts and they agreed, requesting only that he furnish them with a letter of authorisation in the event of legal action.

Who today supports the fascist regime in Portugal?

Portuguese progressives have always been with us, and quite recently, during a meeting hailing the Independence of Guinea Bissau, they demanded negotiations with the MPLA.

In their offensive against the MPLA, the imperialists are trying to prevent the development of future just relations between Angola and Portugal, since they know that we are not against the Portuguese people but against Caetano's fascist regime, which is obstinately persisting in dominating our country. The use of puppets and the elimination of the MPLA would leave the field open for neo-colonialism.

The MPLA is invincible, because we are the people!

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Terror is being stepped up in Portugal! The Church wants the colonial wars to end. Innumerable people have been arrested, among them 150 senior high school students, leaders of patriotic organisations, militants of the Catholic movement, including the architect Teotonio Pereira and the Doctor of Theology Luis Mota, and many members of the National Commission for Support for Political Prisoners.

THE REVOLUTIONARY STRUGGLE IN THE WORLD

Raul Ampuero Diaz, a leader of the left in Chile, was arrested and held incomunicado at the military school in Santiago de Chile on 18 September 1973, since when there has been absolutely no news of him. Born on 19/12/17, he was the founder of the Socialist Youth Federation and was Secretary General of that organisation and of the Socialist Party for various periods. A former senator for Tarapaca and Antofagasta provinces, he was a member of the Central Committee of the People's Socialist Union until 11 September 1973, the day when the popular and democratic Government of Salvador Allende was ruthlessly overthrown in a bloody fascist coup.

The Organisation of Angolan Women joins progressive forces all over the world in demanding the immediate release of Raul Ampuero Diaz and of all the Chilean patriots being held at the mercy of the butchers of Chile's people.



Raul Ampuero Diaz