

Angola Weekly News Summary

February 12, 1976

DECISIVE VICTORIES FOR THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF ANGOLA

The military victory of the forces of the People's Republic of Angola is now nearly complete. In the three months since independence MPLA has decisively defeated, in all areas of the country, U.S. and South African-backed FNLA and UNITA troops who fought with regular units of the Zairean and South African armies, right-wing Portuguese soldiers and settlers, and mercenaries from Western Europe. FNLA and UNITA have announced their retreat and reorganization into guerilla units.

On the Diplomatic Front

On the diplomatic front, the People's Republic of Angola has also made major gains. This week the Organization of African Unity (OAU) officially recognized the PRA as the sole legitimate government of Angola. Two additional African countries, Uganda and Togo, also extended diplomatic recognition to the PRA, bringing to 27 the number of African countries now recognizing the PRA. Others are likely to follow suit shortly.

The government of Portugal has suspended the Alvor agreements. These agreements, drawn up in January, 1974, called for recognition of all three groups, MPLA, UNITA, and FNLA, as legitimate representatives of the Angolan people. This suspension is interpreted as a major step toward Portuguese recognition of the People's Republic of Angola under the MPLA as the sole representative of the Angolan people.

On the Military Front

During the past week MPLA forces scored major military victories. They moved easily into key towns in the south including Nova Lisboa (Huambo), UNITA/FNLA's "diplomatic" capitol, and Silva Porto, the military headquarters of the anti-PRA forces. These towns had been abandoned by the UNITA leadership and were liberated without military confrontation. The crucial port cities of Lobito and Benguela were also taken with little resistance, and with the taking of Luso, the entire railroad is now under PRA control, although it seems likely that it will be some time before it can be opened up for freight traffic given the number of bridges blown up during the fighting.

PRA troops led by the MPLA have received enthusiastic support from local populations as they have moved southward. In fact the southern towns of Sa da Bandeira and Mocamedes are reported to have been liberated primarily by the local population the majority of which support the MPLA. Only Serpo Finto in the Southeast corner remains under UNITA control.

In the north, Santo Antonio do Zaire has been liberated and Sao Salvador, the last FNLA town, is the scene of heavy fighting.

The MPLA forces reported the capture of two American pilots who were flying over Angola, Roger Walter Carley and Richard Fastkill, and forced them to land near Santo Antonio do Zaire when they ran out of fuel.

While FNLA/UNITA forces are claiming to be reorganizing themselves into guerrilla units, South African troops are reportedly digging in some 50 miles into Angola from the Namibian border.

Meanwhile the President of the South West Africa 'People's Organization (SWAPO, the Namibian liberation movement), Sam Nujoma, was in Luanda for talks. SWAPO officially recognizes the People's Republic of Angola. Nujoma said that SWAPO guerrillas have been active inside Namibia attacking South African troops and shooting down helicopters.

Mercenary actions and executions in Zaire

According to reports from Zaire, some 13 or 14 British mercenaries have been killed by a firing squad under orders of mercenary organizers following their refusal to fight. British Prime Minister Harold Wilson told the House of Commons that the reports were apparently correct. In addition, he said that a "very considerable number" had been killed in "warlike operations". Some mercenaries have returned to Britain at their own request reportedly because not only were promises not met such as salaries, but because they the futility of their "adventure" was too apparent.

John Banks, a former mercenary recruiter who himself quit, claims that he saw two members of the U.S. Special Forces training Zairean troops for "action in Angola."

Meanwhile, the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) has recruited 300 Black Americans to go to Angola in mid-March to "assist anti-Communist forces as combat medics." According to Core Director, Roy Innis, the recruitment is legal, but the U.S. Justice Department says otherwise.

NEWS FLASH

THE UNIVERSITY OF ZAMBIA CLOSES DOWN FOLLOWING MORE ARRESTS

The University of Zambia has been closed indefinitely and three more university lecturers have been arrested. The University has recently been the scene of pro-MPLA and anti-Zambian Government demonstrations and strikes. These actions follow the declaration of emergency declared two weeks ago by Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda. (See AWNS February 5).

SPEAKERS:

Liberation Support Movement (LSM) is sponsoring a national speaking and slide show tour on Angola, starting in March, by one of their members who recently returned from an extended visit to Angola. For more information write LSM, P.O. Box 673, Brooklyn, N.Y. 11202, or P.O. Box 756, Berkeley, Calif., or call 212-772-1758 (N.Y.) or 415-465-0909 (Calif).

The MPLA Solidarity Committee has speakers available. For engagements outside of the N.Y. metropolitan area, transportation costs have to be covered.

THE U.S. AND ANGOLA

On February 10th, President Ford signed the \$112.3 billion defense appropriations bill, which included a Congressional amendment banning all covert aid to Angola. The President called the amendment a "serious mistake" and accused Congress of having "lost their guts."

The continuing debate over U.S. intervention in Angola is again before Congress, this time in the form of various proposed amendments to the military aid bill. The Senate Foreign Relations Committee has unanimously adopted an amendment to the bill requiring the President to submit a report substantiating a request for any overt aid to Angola and allowing either house of Congress to veto such a request within 30 days. The full Senate has not yet voted on the bill.

In the House International Relations Committee several amendments to the military aid bill are being considered. The weakest of these, offered by Fraser (Minn. -D), would permit Congress to limit covert aid to Angola, and would require Congressional authorization for the use of U.S. armed forces or paramilitary forces. However, it would leave the President complete flexibility with respect to overt aid. Fraser, regarded as a liberal in the Congress, is contending that UNITA should be supported because it "represents the majority of Angolans." By claiming to be voicing the wishes of Africans and by appealing to principles of fair play and decency, Fraser is providing a liberal cover for the Administration's interventionist requests.

Meanwhile, there are rumours that the military aid bill may be dropped altogether, since the period it covers (fiscal '75) will end June 30th. While the bill has been postponed, the Administration has been operating on a continuing resolution. Under the provisions of the continuing resolution the Administration has already committed \$19 million in military credit sales to Zaire, aid which will undoubtedly find its way to MPLA's enemies in Angola.

Senator John Tunney (Calif.-D) reported that on the basis of information collected by members of his staff who recently visited Angola, "American involvement ... has been much larger and more pervasive than I previously realized or than the Administration has acknowledged." Tunney said that his aides had found "ample evidence of American involvement with the airlift of arms to Angola, with Americans taking part in the air and on the ground." The aides collected the names of American advisors operating inside Angola, and one aide talked with the man whom Sivimbi called his "American advisor." (Washington Post, Feb. 7)

In addition, Tunney testified, "UNITA sources in Lisbon told my investigators they were receiving funds from Saudi Arabia and Kuwait," indicating that the U.S. had served as a go-between in this aid arrangement. The amount from Saudi Arabia is reported to be \$50 million coming, Tunney added, "curiously enough after the Senate amendment cutting off American covert aid."

The Administration seems bent on continuing, through covert means if necessary, aid to the remnants of UNITA and FNLA in whatever strategies are evolved given MPLA's resounding military victories.

WEEK OF PROGRAMS AND DEMONSTRATIONS MARKS 15th ANNIVERSARY OF ANGOLA'S ARMED STRUGGLE

One thousand people confronted Secretary of State Kissinger outside the Fairmont Hotel in San Francisco where he was addressing the World Affairs Council on Feb. 3rd. A rally and mass march were called by 22 organizations in two cooperating coalitions, the Black Coalition for U.S. out of Angola and the Angola Solidarity Coalition. Demonstrators chanted "Hey, hey, Henry K. Recognize the PRA!" Speakers represented the Black Panther Party, Winter Soldier Organization, ZANU (Zimbabwe African National Union), and CASA Brotherhood of Workers.

In the East and Midwest, thousands braved bitter cold weather and snowy streets to demonstrate their solidarity with the MPLA on Feb. 7th. They came together to honor the beginning of MPLA's armed struggle (Feb. 4th) and to demand an end to all U.S. aggression in Angola. The marchers were warmed by the knowledge of MPLA's imminent victory.

Events were held in N.Y. and Chicago on Friday evening, February 6th. In Chicago, 450 turned out for an educational forum sponsored by the Chicago U.S. out of Angola Committee. The program featured Ben Magubane, spokesman for the African National Congress of South Africa; Jose La Liza of the Puerto Rican Socialist Party; and Harold Rogers of the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists. The evening also featured songs and a slide show on Angola. In NYC, 250 attended an evening of cultural solidarity with the MPLA, sponsored by the February 4th Coalition. Featured were singers, Rev. Kirkpatrick and Cruz Martinez, performances by Eritrean, Arab, and Greek students, and remarks by Coalition members.

On Feb. 7th, chanting demonstrators carried PRA support banners through the streets of Boston, Chicago, New York, and Phila. In Boston, 500 gathered on the Commons and marched to historic Fanneuil Hall in a demonstration sponsored by: the Angola Solidarity Coalition, Africans for Independence, New American Movement, Cambridge Tenants Organizing Committee, Youth Against War and Facism, and International Socialists. In Chicago, 300 demonstrators marched downtown to slogans of "U.S. Out of Angola," "Jobs Not War," and "Support for the MPLA" followed by a rally. Three hundred dollars was raised for direct support of MPLA. In New York, another 300 gathered for a long march past offices of Gulf Oil and South African Airways and for a rally in which 20 groups of the February 4th Coalition participated. In Phila., 200 persons marched from the heart of the black community past the offices of Gulf Oil. A rally followed moderated by Jack Hart, United Electrical Union official, and featuring speakers from the coalition sponsoring the march.

These events demonstrated the importance of local coalitions formed around support for the MPLA, not just around opposition to U.S. intervention. They have helped launch educational and material support work for MPLA in these cities, and they form a basis for ongoing work among workers and oppressed nationalities, particularly the black community, to support the liberation struggle in southern Africa and worldwide. They must be followed by more forums, by petitions, by fundraising to build the strongest movement possible to stop U.S. aggression in Angola and aid the total victory of the MPLA.

NEXT WEEK THE MPLA SOLIDARITY COMMITTEE WILL BE PARTICIPATING IN A CONFERENCE WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF ANGOLA. FOR THIS REASON THERE WILL BE NO NEWSLETTER.

Samora Machel Speaks Out on Angola

WE STRUGGLE FOR UNITY BUT WE DO NOT ACCEPT UNITY WITH THE ENEMY

The following is an unofficial translation of Samora Machel, President of People's Republic of Mozambique's closing address to the recent Extraordinary Meeting of the Organization of African Unity meeting on Angola in Addis Ababa, delivered on January 13, 1976.

Mr. President, Excellencies:

We are almost at the end of the work of this historic first extraordinary session of our organization.

For us this was the meeting in which African dignity would be affirmed, in which all of Africa would rise up without hesitation against the aggression of South Africa, against imperialist intervention in Angola.

For us this was the meeting of the African personality, against the pressures and blackmail of imperialism.

Was this the meeting that we expected?

It was with deep anguish that the delegation of the People's Republic of Mozambique heard some of the interventions made here.

We were not ignorant of the reality of our continent when we came to this meeting, when we participated in the OAU. During the years of armed struggle against Portuguese colonialism, we had occasion to note that sometimes the unanimity of the struggle against Portuguese colonialism was violated by some countries. We know those in our continent who, while voting resolutions of support for our struggle collaborated with Portuguese colonialism and always tried to lead us to positions of capitulation.

Not a few times it was necessary to struggle against the labelling as intransigents which these same countries applied to us.

We find it appropriate at this point to once again thank all those who carried out their duty to support our liberation struggle in a serious way up to our independence.

We are also aware that deep cleavages, political and ideological, exist among our governments.

Nor are we unaware of the particular difficulties which weigh upon many African States because of the heritage of the past, present conditions and geographic positions.

We do not therefore intend to make an abstraction from our continent as it is. But it is no less true that in spite of all the insufficiencies, reservations, hesitations and compromises we always succeeded in presenting a coherent and united voice of Africa with respect to the direct enemy. [We know] that submission to imperialism led some of us to sabotage the liberation struggle of our continent. We suffered it in our own flesh.

What then surprises us in this meeting? What surprises us, what shocks and outrages us is the heat, the vehemence with which the position of the racist regime of South Africa was defended, here, in Addis Ababa, the birthplace of the Organization of African Unity. What dis-

resses us is the shamelessness with which alliances were proclaimed here with the regimes which have always been and continue to be the greatest enemies of our independence, of our dignity, of our personality. What will our peoples think of us? What will the South African people, oppressed by police terror, fettered by the force of arms, humiliated by apartheid, think of us at this moment?

Claims were indirectly made in this Assembly that to be revolutionary one must collaborate with the enemy. It was affirmed that to be African one must receive the enemy fraternally and permit it to occupy and dominate us. It was theorized that the enemy had a right to invade and pillage us.

We want to say that between us and the enemy there can be no compromise, however important the economic or other motives.

We have 1500 km of border with the direct enemies of Africa, we have just finished ten long years of war and we affirm here that under no circumstances will we capitulate to the enemy.

Our duty is to combat the enemy, our duty is to defend the people.

We are Africans, Africans under attack, Africans who refuse to let themselves be intimidated in the defense of the dignity of Africa. Therefore we are with the People's Republic of Angola.

This meeting which we are now ending was one in which the courage and dignity of all those who resist imperialism was affirmed.

We want to present some final points for reflection.

We won our liberty by sacrifice, we did not receive it from anyone. Our people conquered power and democracy, they did not receive them from anyone.

Therefore we are with the Angolan people, who in blood continue to affirm their right to independence, to territorial integrity, to choose, without any interference, their alliances, the political, economic and social system that corresponds to their interests.

We are with the Angolan people who, arms in hand, affirm their right to support the struggle of Namibia, the liberation struggle of Southern Africa. In all circumstances we are the same, we won this right with our blood.

We refused yesterday, during the war, we refuse today, being independent, to allow anyone to dictate positions to us.

We affirm in this way our independence, our non-alignment.

Because we are independent, because we refuse to ally ourselves with imperialism, we are resolutely with the Angolan people, with the People's Republic of Angola, which defends its right not to become a new Bantustan or a satellite of imperialism.

We heard with surprise talk of the handover of sovereignty.

The experience of Mozambique, of Angola, of Guinea, of Cape Verde, of Sao Tomé and Príncipe, is that sovereignty, independence, resulted from our combat, from the

blood volunteered by our people, from the immense sacrifices consented to by African and international solidarity.

We have won what we have today in struggle, we have created what we have ourselves. Portugal was forced to recognize our reality because it was defeated.

The reality of our countries, the reality of Angola, is that the people assumed their sovereignty when they began the struggle.

This was the principle, the reality that the OAU defended and made the international community accept.

FRELIMO always defended unity. This Assembly knows well our uncompromising struggle for national unity. This Assembly several times paid homage to the unity won by FRELIMO.

We struggle for unity, but we can never accept uniting ourselves with the declared agents of the enemy, we can never accept uniting ourselves with the enemy itself; that would mean capitulating [for the sake of] unity.

Therefore we support the People's Republic of Angola, the efforts of its Government under the leadership of its party, the MPLA to unite all the patriotic forces in the fight to preserve Angolan independence and territorial integrity. [We support their] defense of the right of the people to a real independence from imperialism.

There is talk of a cease-fire. A cease-fire should only take place after the aggressor agrees to certain prior conditions which are at the base of the conflict. To propose a cease-fire to the People's Republic of Angola without South Africa and its agents having agreed to evacuate the invading troops and their material, is a reward for aggression. It is necessary that the enemy agree to leave Angolan territory; it is necessary that the enemy accept the free existence of the People's Republic of Angola; it is necessary that the enemy stop trying to make Angola a new base to attack independent countries, in order that we may discuss a cease-fire.

A cease-fire is only valid when imperialism stops its aggression.

During the liberation struggle we were supported by Africa, we were supported by the socialist countries, we were supported by all of progressive humanity. The socialist countries furnished us substantial aid that increased with the development of the struggle.

In the beginning of the 70's the MPLA, PAIGC and FRELIMO began to receive ground-to-ground rockets, and ground-to-air rockets. We had these arms, we also had the instructors for these arms.

We won the war. To force colonialism to respect the signed agreements, and then to consolidate our sovereignty against foreign threats, we continued to receive arms and instructors.

We have this right to defend ourselves, we have the right to have recourse to our natural allies, to those who always supported us, to reinforce our defense capacity.

For this very reason we support the People's Republic of Angola when it has recourse to its allies to reinforce its capacity to expel the invader.

Therefore we thank, today as yesterday, all those who fulfill their internationalist duty of support for the liberation struggle.

The People's Republic of Mozambique has in its territory economic projects undertaken by Portuguese colonialism [in partnership] with South African and other [foreign] investments.

The People's Republic of Mozambique has about 3000 km of coastline on the Indian Ocean.

The People's Republic of Mozambique is one of the countries that should serve as a support base for the struggle of Southern Africa.

We have to know, if the enemy attacks us, if the enemy claims that its right to apartheid is threatened, we have to know, if the enemy arranges for a handful of puppets to invite it to invade us, we have to know, who in Africa will be with us?

We want to know also who will deny us the right to defense, who will tell us that the support of our allies is a foreign intervention. In this meeting we now know each other.

The People's Republic of Mozambique, together with 21 other countries, aware of its duties to the liberty and dignity of Africa, has proposed a resolution.

In essence we propose:

1. The unconditional condemnation, without concessions, without ambiguity, of the aggression by South Africa, a direct enemy of Africa, and demand the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of its forces and materials.
2. The unconditional condemnation, without concessions, without ambiguity, of those principally responsible, being Angolans, being Africans, who openly collaborate with South Africa.
3. The unconditional support, without concessions, without ambiguity, of those who defend the territorial integrity of Angola, against the South African invasion, against the aggression, maneuvers and subversions of imperialism.
4. The unconditional support, without concessions, without ambiguity, of those who struggle for national unity, for the unity of all the patriotic forces, those who struggle to rebuild in peace, in unity and in integrity a free Angola. The OAU should support all the efforts of the People's Republic of Angola to unite all patriots in the national effort.
5. Until we are in a situation where we can arrive at a consensus on the basis of [such] just positions, we should postpone our debate, *sine die*.

The Struggle Continues!

A Luta Continua!

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