

MPLA Solidarity Committee Formed

This is a critical time for the future of Angola. The victory of the Angolan people is being threatened by an alliance of Western interests, conservative internal elements, South Africa and Zaire.

The MPLA Solidarity Committee has been formed to support the People's Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA) which in the years of armed struggle since 1961 has proven to be the driving force in the Angolan people's struggle for independence. The MPLA is both a popular and a revolutionary movement. Ever since the start of the war of liberation, it has been engaged in building a transformed society. In the liberated areas MPLA mobilized the people to determine and control their own future, not just change the color of the faces of the rulers. Its program has aimed at ending all exploitation, making Angola's great resources work for the benefit of the Angolan people, not foreign corporations or small local elites. Mobilizing nationally, in the towns and the country, the MPLA has broken down ethnic barriers. In the crisis of the last few months, the MPLA's slogan has been 'Poder Popular'—people's power—and it has made this real by arming the people so that the people themselves can be responsible for defending their revolution.

The MPLA's firm position against foreign domination makes the movement feared by Western economic interests, like Gulf Oil, and by governments that represent those interests. FNLA and UNITA are seen as more pliable—thus the aim of Western interests is to destroy the MPLA.

The US government is intensifying its efforts to prevent the establishment of a truly independent Angola. Financial and military assistance is being sent to both the FNLA and UNITA to support their fight against the MPLA. The Zaire government has a history of close ties with the FNLA. Their troops make up much of the fighting force of the FNLA which has invaded Angola from the north. Zaire's assistance to the FNLA has been increased in the last few months with the help of massive US aid. Despite efforts to conceal the extent of US involvement, funds flowing into Zaire have jumped from less than \$20 million to more than \$60 million with more still under Congressional consideration.

South Africa is leading an intervention from the south to prevent an MPLA led independence. A large force of mercenaries, renegade Portuguese army officers who support Spínola, right wing Portuguese settlers, and South African military officers has illegally invaded Angola using South African air transport and equipment. They have crossed into Angola from Namibia, a United Nations protectorate which South Africa is occupying in defiance of international law. Both South Africa and Zaire have already used air power in their assault on the Angolan people. This makes it increasingly urgent to stop continued Western military assistance to enemies of the MPLA.

Our purpose is to support the MPLA by spotlighting the military and political developments in Angola and exposing the escalation of U.S. intervention. We see this as a critical first step in building solidarity between the people of the United States and the people of Angola in their common fight against exploitation and U.S. imperialism.

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